METRO / A21

La Salle student falls to his death from Taft Avenue condo

BUSINESS / B1

Peso to hit 44.50: $1 by yearend; strong trend seen by economist

WORLD / A24

Rare street protests alarm military junta in Burma

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Deconstructing Tarantino or The 'little spider's' stratagem

LIFESTYLE / C1

Fashion special: Inno Sotto, Part 1 of Modern masters

2 farmers escape, seek SC protection from AFP

By Leila B. Salaverria

FINDING NO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENcy to trust, two farmers who reportedly escaped after 18 months in military detention yesterday asked the Supreme Court in an unprecedented move to place them under its protective custody.

2 FARMERS/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, August 24, 2007 ★★ sections / Vol. 22 / No. 257 P18 website: w er.net

Study on sex after 60: Regular, active, fun

MOST AMERICANS remain sexually active into their 60s, and nearly half continue to have sex regularly into their early 70s, researchers reported on Thursday as a result of

STUDY/ A6

KAYA PA RIN MASKI GURANG NA!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/ANABEL BARQUILLA/DENR-PENRO

A TIME TO WAIL: A 42-foot whale died after it beached itself at Barangay Tagdon, Barcelona, Sorsogon. Known as Brydee's whale, it is not an endangered species and is usually sighted off the coasts of Siquijor, Bohol, Camiguin and Palawan. Though residents in the area wanted a piece of the meat, local officials buried the enormous mammal according to the provisions of the fishery administrative order.

GMA sits on 90 graft cases

Only two officials fired so far

By Tony S. Bergonia, Juliet L. Javellana and Jerome Aning

OFFICIALS OF THE PRESIdential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) have expressed frustration over the slow pace with which the Office of the President has been acting on 90 cases filed by the commission.

Only two officials have been sacked so far. Fired were Victoriano Calaycay, National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) chair, and Dominador Ferrer Jr., chief of the Intramuros Administration, according to Undersecretary Severo Catura of the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Catura said the Office of the President had approved the PAGC recommendation to dismiss Calaycay as early as two weeks ago, while the decision to fire Ferrer was made last week. No replacements for the two officials have yet been named.

The PAGC recommended the dismissal of Calaycay for allegedly demanding P400,000 from a recruitment agency that he and other men were helping to secure a license from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

In an entrapment set up by the National Bureau of Investigation, Calaycay, POEA lawyers Zomer Ochavillo and Augustus Hidalgo, and a certain Dennis Gabionza were caught receiving P200,000 from Jocelyn Enriquez, owner of the recruitment firm. Calaycay could not be reached for comment.

Ferrer said he would appeal his dismissal over the relocation of squatters

GMA SITS/ A6

EDWIN BACASMAS

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH ... GMA gets going straight to war-shattered Basilan. At the 1st Marine Brigade headquarters in Tabiawan, Isabela, Ms Arroyo boosts morale of the troops who have been fighting a war that's gone to the dogs. Up front to welcome her is the Marine's mascot for a boodle fight.

GMA flies to Basilan, orders 2 campaigns

By Christine O. Avendaño and Julie S. Alipala

ZAMBOANGA CITY—PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a two-pronged campaign on the rebellion-torn islands of Basilan and Jolo, directing troops to mount an "unabated" drive against insurgents and to conduct mercy missions in the affected communities.

Ms Arroyo flew to Zamboanga and presided over a command conference where she was given a briefing on the military front since renewed violence flared on the two islands following the July 10 slaying of 14 Marines by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Fighting on the two islands has so far killed 57 military personnel.

From Zamboanga, where she handed out cash assistance to the families of the slain soldiers, the President flew to Isabela City on Basilan island. She thanked and shook hands with the troops and announced a possible raise in combat pay. *(Story on Page A19.)* She then joined soldiers in an outdoor lunch.

Briefing reporters on the command conference in Zamboanga, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. said Ms Arroyo issued "guidance" to the military and other agencies concerned.

"Operations against the ASG will continue unabated, consistent with the mandate of the Constitution to secure the peace and security of the areas," Teodoro said.

He said the President's directive included "a humanitarian invasion which seeks to dovetail needed development efforts with continuing security operations."

The military will do its share here by deploying engineering brigades to provide labor and equipment for infrastructure projects in the affected areas and doctors from the V. Luna hospital in Quezon City to take care of those who need medical assistance, Teodoro said.

"The President once again reiterated the commitment of the

GMA FLIES / A19

'By, Aylabyu,' fallen lieutenant texted girlfriend; don't get hit in face, she said

By Arlyn de la Cruz
Contributor
Jeoffrey Maitem,
Inquirer Mindanao
and Tarra Quismundo

"BY, AYLABYU."

In the playful, mushy lingo of young lovers, this "text" message from 2nd Lt. Ludwig Salvador reached his girlfriend's mobile phone at 8:55 p.m. of Aug. 17.

The next day, it proved to be the officer's final farewell: Salvador and 14 other Marines were killed in a nine-hour assault on a major encampment of Abu Sayyaf bandits on Basilan island.

"He told me about a possible encounter and (that I had) to be prepared for anything that

BY, AYLABYU/ A16

Palace to Senate: Drop 'Hello Garci' probe; work to pass 24 priority bills

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY APpealed to the Senate to work on the passage of important bills instead of fomenting gridlock by reopening the investigation of the "Hello Garci" scandal.

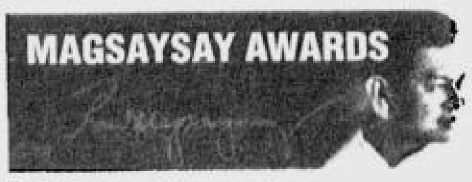
"The agenda of economic growth and peace must prevail over attempts to pull us back from winning these goals," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"The President urges Congress to start working on the budget bill. She seeks the Senate's cooperation in the ratification of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa). The bill for affordable, quality medicines certainly deserves urgent attention," Bunye said.

"Let us work together to help the people the best way we can. Gridlock must not stand in the way of our collective right to a brighter future," he said.

On Tuesday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson called for a reinvestigation of the wiretapping scandal after he played a videotaped testimony of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, a military intelligence operative who claimed he taped Ms Arroyo's conversation with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the 2004 presidential election.

PALACE/ A16



Out of shadow of death, emerged the nationalist

By Virgilio Galvez

JOVITO SALONGA'S LIFE COULD have very well been a cliché—he was one of those quintessential poor boys who did well in his studies and rose to fame and positions of power.

But unlike those who moved on to accumulate great wealth and influence at the expense of the public good and the national interest, Salonga chose a life of service to the people.

Steeled by poverty and guided by Protestant ethics, Salonga had no fear about outcomes after making his choices on which paths to take at crucial junctures in Philippine history.

His continuing journey of 87 years could very well be likened to one undertaken by a hero in a Greek epic—one full of unnerving confrontations with the monsters and villains of the times that unceasingly

OUT OF/ A19

JOVITO SALONGA: From barefoot in school to center stage as Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/08/23/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Solons want bigger 'pork' slice

By Norman Bordadora

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE MAJORITY YESTERday called for a more equitable distribution of the congressional pork barrel as the chair of the House committee on appropriations vowed work on the proposed P1.2 trillion national budget would start next week.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, in a news forum yesterday, went as far as ask that the countrywide development fund of senators be the same as the priority development assistance fund of members of the House of Representatives.

"Why is the CDF... of senators bigger than (the PDAF) of congressmen? They do not have constituencies in the districts," Solis said in the presence of newly elected House budget panel chair Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman.

"We are not the Lower House. (Senators and congressmen) are equal. We belong to the same congress so their perk should be the same," Solis said.

The 13th Congress allocated a pork barrel fund of P70 million for each member of the House and P200 million for every senator.

Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron, on the other hand, said House members from legislative districts with a bigger constituencies should have more development funds.

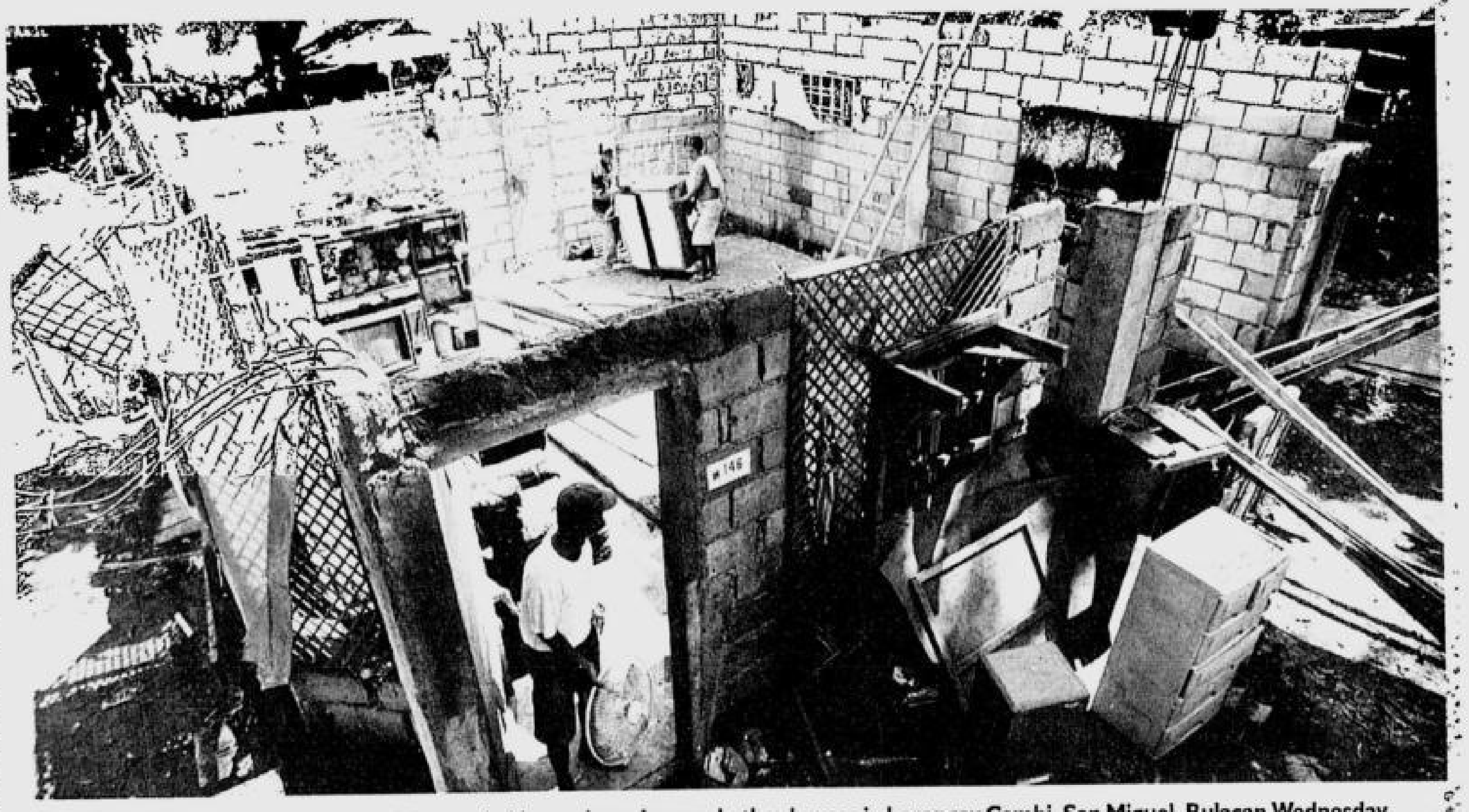
"There are districts (like) Batanes. I have nothing against the congressman of Batanes but their voting population is 10,000.... We have 250,000. But our allocations are the same," Biron said.

"I hope the House could look into this. I hope one day, the resources can equitably be distributed," he added.

Lagman said the congressional pork is still subject to deliberation in the committee.

The Bicol lawmaker said Malacañang has proposed a pork barrel fund totaling some P4 billion with House members getting P40 million each and senators, P120 million each.

Malacañang proposed the same amount for House members and senators in the 2007 budget but Congress enacted a national budget that set aside P70 million for every House member and P200 million for each senator.



A TWISTER DID THIS to the home of Fernando Linsangin and several other houses in barangay Cambi, San Miguel, Bulacan Wednesday night. Linsangin's wife and son were injured.

JOAN BONDOC

Bulacan is RP's 'tornado alley'

By TJ Burgonio

WHY ARE TORNADOES BECOMing more frequent in the Philippines?

A tornado violently whirled through a village in Bulacan Wednesday night and blew off rooftops of some houses in its path in what meteorologists said was the latest occurrence this month.

No one was hurt, but at least 30 houses in Barangay Cambio, San Miguel town were partially damaged by what is locally known as *buhawi*, which was becoming frequent in Central Luzon.

This month alone, at least four similar occurrences were reported in Candaba in Pampanga, and Bustos, San Rafael and Baliuag towns in Bulacan.

Tornadoes should be expected in a "tropical-maritime country" like the Philippines, according to meteorologist Landrico Dalida Jr. of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"In our country, we experience warm air current with high temperature and relative humidity. These are the factors that contribute to severe thunderstorms," he said in a phone interview.

Tornado season

These thunderstorms, in turn, trigger the tornadoes, he added.

The thunderstorm clouds hovering over Bulacan and Pampanga would explain why these two provinces north of Manila were frequently being hit by tornadoes, according to the meteorologist.

Based on Pagasa data, more twisters occur around this time of the year.

Between 1994 and 2003, when 172 tornadoes were recorded, 31 events occurred in the month of July, 28 in August and 27 in September, Dalida said, citing Pagasa figures.

"These are the top three months with the highest occurrence of tornadoes. Most of the tornadoes occurred in Mindanao because the area is mountainous and cloudy most of the time," he said.

The meteorologist believes that the tornadoes occurring in Central Luzon had less intensity than the twisters that pummel the United States every now and then.

In general, tornadoes are estimated to pack maximum winds of 400 kph at the center, he said.

"I think the tornadoes that we experience here have winds that are less than 400 kph. If they are 400 kph, they will be devastating," he said.

More than a decade ago, tornadoes left heavy toll on lives and property.

On Nov. 29, 1994, a tornado struck Cotabato City and farming villages in southern Philippines, where 14 people went missing. A month earlier, on Oct. 16, three people were killed when a tornado struck an evacuation center in San Fernando, Pampanga.

On July 2, 1994, a tornado killed two children in a riverside village near Cagayan de Oro.

But the heaviest toll was recorded on June 14, 1990 when 30 people were killed when a tornado swept through a village in Manukan town, Zamboanga del Norte.

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Demand for nurses still high

By Nikko Dizon

THE GLOBAL DEMAND FOR NURSES will remain high for the next 10 years, according to an official of the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), as the first group of examinees yesterday took the National Council Licensure Examination at the first NCLEX testing center in the country.

"The nursing shortage is still significant and research still indicates that there is an anticipated shortfall of more than a million nurses in the US," Casey Marks, NCSBN associate executive director, told reporters.

The shortage is worldwide, Marks said, and in the US—a preferred destination of many Filipino nurses—"there is certainly a significant demand for a long period of time."

With opportunities looming ahead, Marks said, he would indeed encourage more Filipinos to take up nursing as a profession.

"That's one of the reasons we are here," added Robert Whelan, president of Pearson Vue, which owns and operates NCLEX testing centers in various parts of the world, including the first center in the Philippines, located at the Trident Towers in Makati City.

The opening of the NCLEX testing center in Makati signified the NCSBN's confidence in the Philippines, despite the leakage scandal which attended the 2006 nursing licensure board exam, he noted.

4 reviewers charged in nursing test leak

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS NURSES HOPING TO GET jobs in the United States began taking the qualifying tests first to be held here, the Department of Justice yesterday recommended the filing of criminal charges against four officials of the R.A. Gapuz and Inress review centers for allegedly leaking questions in the June 2006 licensure exams.

Fourteen others accused were absolved from liability, but DOJ Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño also said the dismissal of the case against five people from the Royal Pentagon Review Specialist Inc. for lack of evidence, was without prejudice to its refiling.

Facing possible charges of manipulation and other corrupt practices in the conduct of professional examinations in violation of the Professional Regulation Modernization Act are director and reviewer Ricarte Gapuz, stockholder and reviewer Elena Gapuz-Altarejos and drill master Jonna Bucud of the R.A. Gapuz Review Center and former Philippine Nurses Association president and Inress Review Center president George Cordero.

The offense is punishable with six to 12 years' imprisonment or a fine of P50,000 to P100,000, or both.

The complaint was brought by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Professional Regulation Commission.

In a resolution released yesterday, the DOJ said the evidence indicated that the June 2006 nursing licensure examinations were "marred by a systematic leakage of examination questions" that had come from Board of Nursing members and given to suspected review centers and examinees.

Witnesses' statements

It cited the statements of witnesses who narrated how the leaked questions were provided to nurses reviewing at R.A. Gapuz and Inress.

In the case of R.A. Gapuz, two nurses said that two days before the exam, review materials for Test V were distributed in the review center in Baguio. They later learned that the materials contained actual test questions.

Nurses reviewing at Inress attended a final coaching session at SM Manila where a Powerpoint presentation of various questions and their answers were given, particularly those involving Tests III and V of the exam. The questions were the ones asked at the actual test.

The review center officials denied the allegations.

Court lets Erap visit ailing ma

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS granted jailed former President Joseph Estrada a 10-hour pass to visit his ailing mother today.

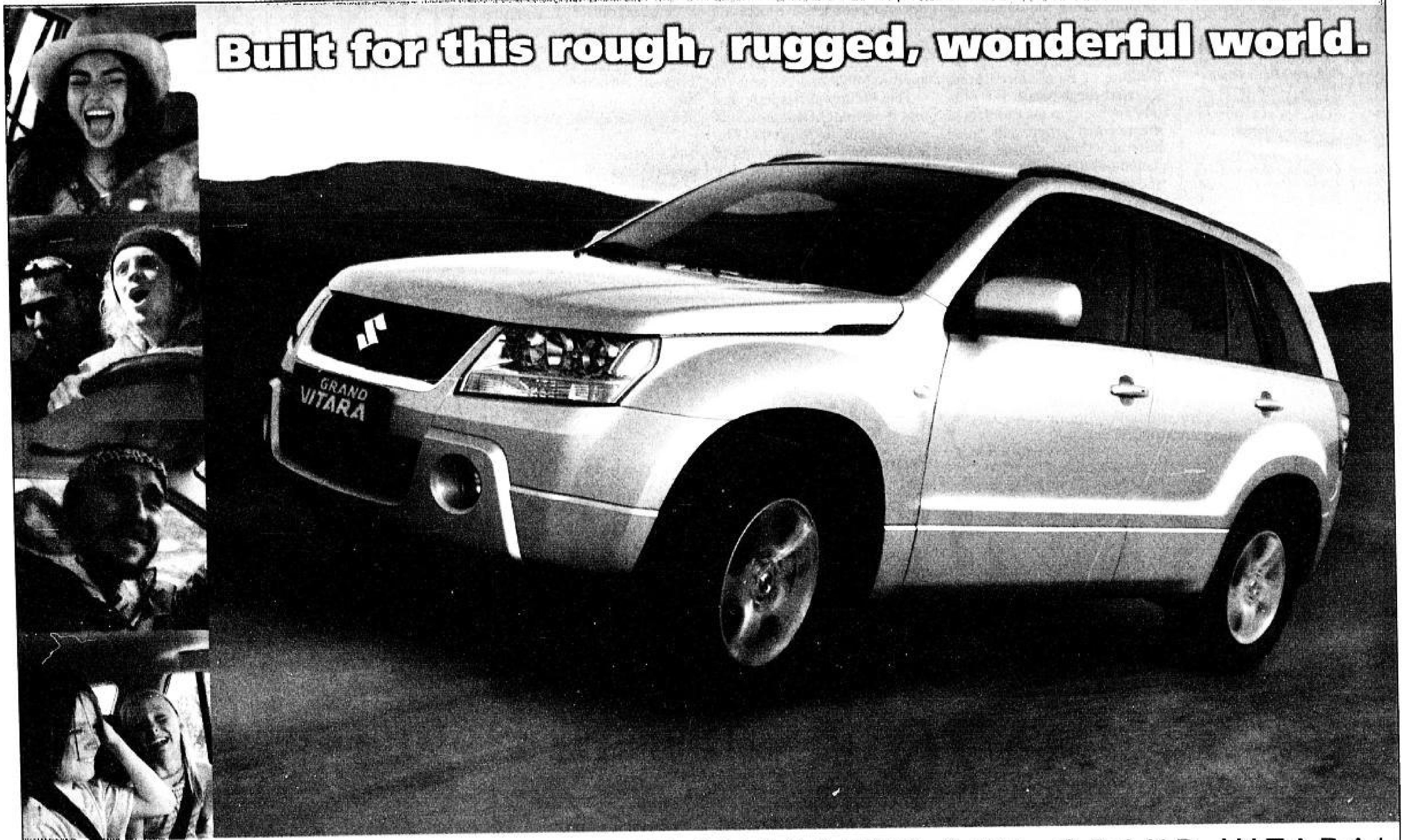
The antigraft court's Special Division allowed the former president to leave his Tanay, Rizal rest house from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and be escorted by the police to the San Juan Medical Center, where his mother has been confined for two weeks now.

Both the prosecution lawyers and the police raised no objections to Estrada's request filed with the court on Tuesday.

Through his counsel, Rene Saguisag, Estrada notified the court that his 102-year-old mother, Mary Ejercito, has been confined at the San Juan Medical Center since Aug. 10 due to pneumonia and hypertension.

The family doctor, Lorenzo Hocson, said Ejercito, whose condition was "unstable," had difficulty breathing so she had to be hooked to a respirator early this week.

In securing Estrada's brief furlough today, the court directed the police, in coordination with Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta, to ensure that the former president would not go to any place other than the hospital.



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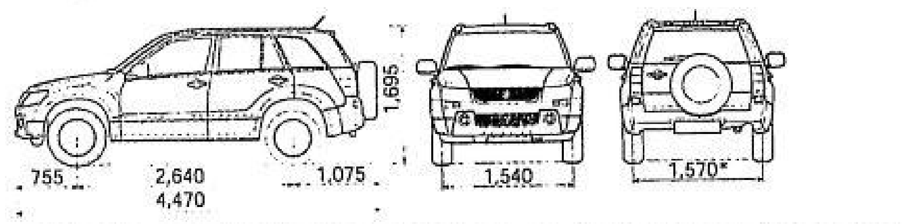

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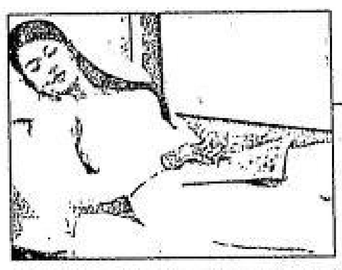

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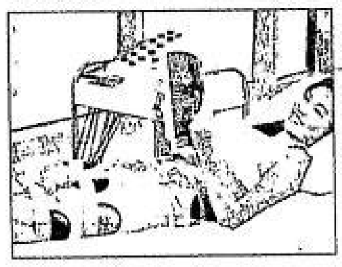

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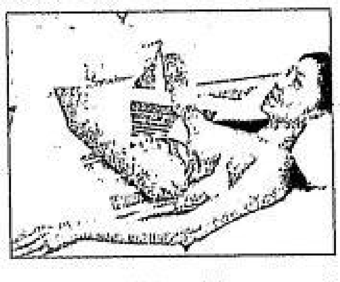

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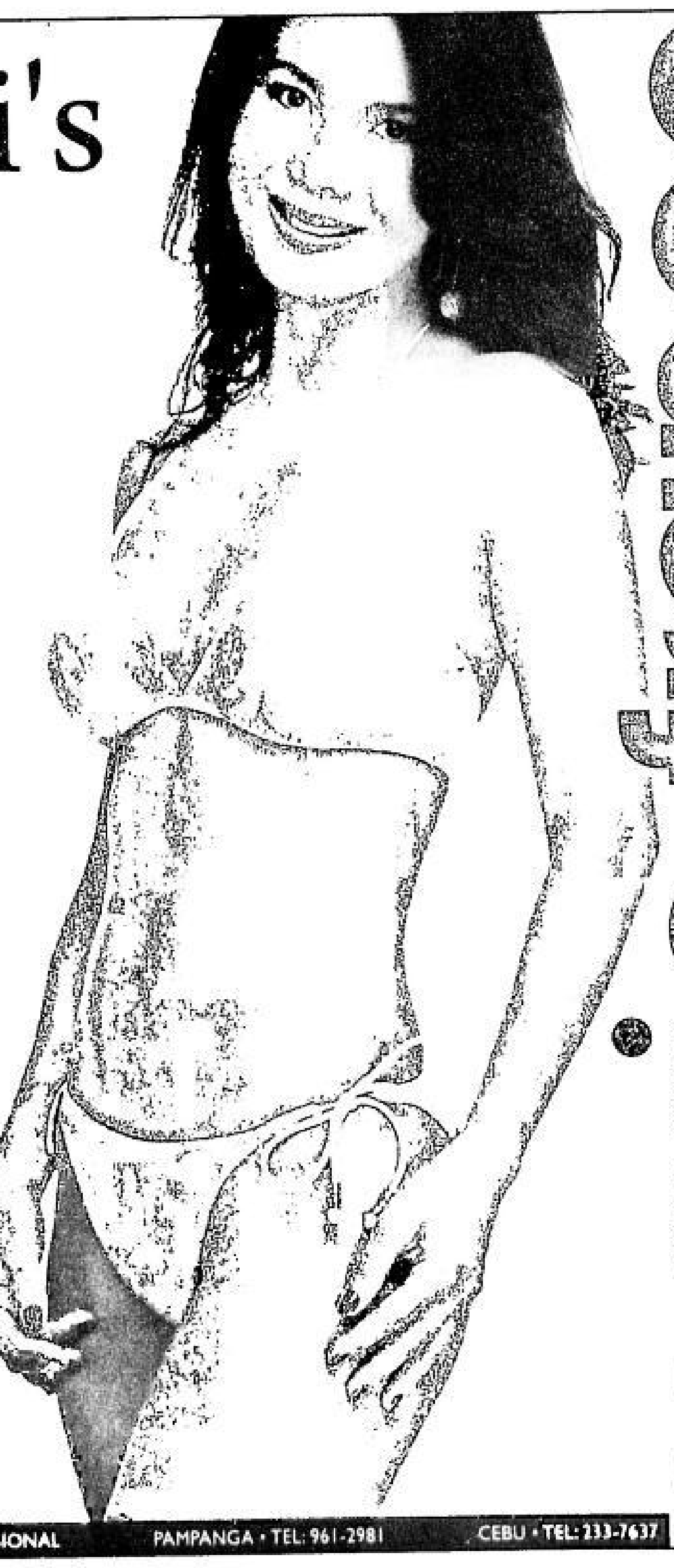

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Correction

IN THE AUG. 23 ISSUE, the headline of a story on Page A9—"Disini brod loses immunity"—misstated the relationship of Herminio and Jesus Disini. The two are cousins—not brothers.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Use Indon way vs terror, military urged

COTABATO CITY—A CIVIL SOCIETY leader in Mindanao has urged the military to study the Indonesian strategy of containing terrorism in order to apply it to the extremist Abu Sayyaf and its allies from the Jemaah Islamiyah in Sulu and Basilan.

Professor Abhoud Syed Mansur-Lingga, director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, told the INQUIRER the military approach to the problem of the terrorist group had failed miserably and caused huge "collateral damage" to civilians and government forces.

"A military approach is not the solution ... maybe the military could take a look at the Indonesian approach," Lingga said.

He said that unlike the Philippine military, Indonesia did not deploy large numbers of troops to address the JI problem.

The JI, linked to Osama bin Laden, is based in Indonesia.

"The Indonesian strategy does not use excessive force and thousands of soldiers. It also uses other means the Philippine military can study and possibly apply in Mindanao," he said.

The Philippine military has sent thousands of troops to Sulu and Basilan to hunt the Abu Sayyaf and rogue elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. So far, 50 soldiers have been killed since last month.

Lingga said the military had always downplayed the capability of the Abu Sayyaf, so he was surprised by the large deployment.

"Civil society is quite surprised because we were told the ASG was gone," he said.

Lingga said he understood that this was not the time to call for a cease-fire.

"We can't call for a cease-fire because the government is running after terrorists. We can only ask the AFP to reconsider its offensive [in favor of] other means to combat terror and the Indonesian strategy was quite successful," he said.

"This is unsolicited advice but I believe it would be successful and the government would not need to worry about the civilians," Lingga, also head of the Bangsamoro Assembly of Peace Advocates, added. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Full speed ahead for Naia 3 work

THE DATE HAS YET TO BE SET but construction work has begun at Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to get the mothballed building opened "as soon as possible," an airport official said yesterday.

On the heels of the World Bank's junking of the $425-million claim for compensation by the German builder of the terminal, Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Alfonso Cusi yesterday said the Japanese contractor, Takenaka, had started a month-long mobilization of its workers to Manila.

Takenaka has to finish the roughly 2 percent of the construction it failed to complete and repair deficiencies in the structure like the portion of the arrival area ceiling that collapsed in March last year, Cusi said.

"We are working to complete the terminal so that we can use [it] as soon as possible ... Takenaka will do the repairs, but we don't have a target date yet. We will make the announcement when the work is finished," Cusi told reporters yesterday.

Takenaka Corp. was contracted by Naia 3's builder, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), to construct the multimillion-dollar facility. Piatco was a consortium that included Germany's Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide (Fraport). *Tarra Quismundo*

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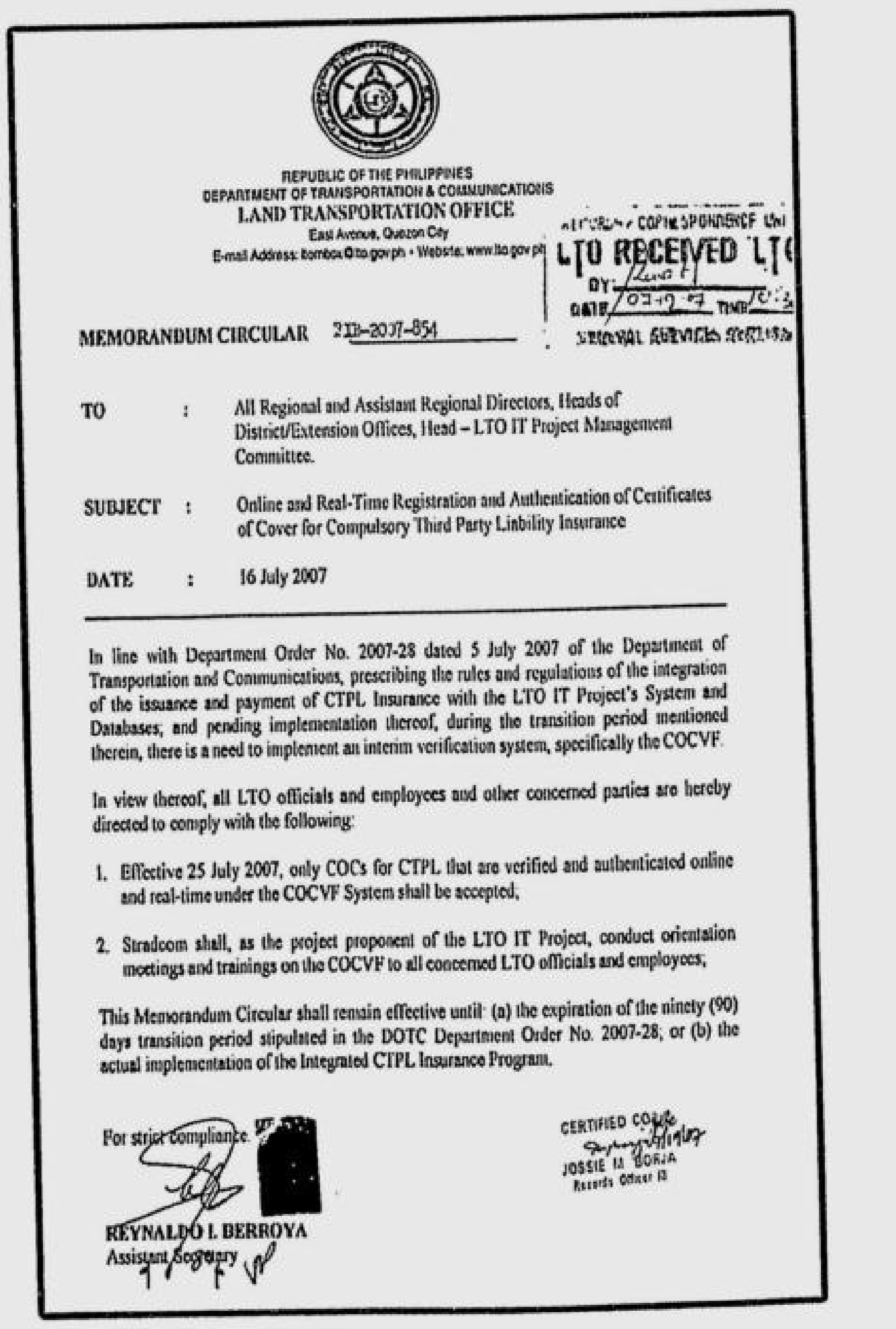
NOTICE TO ALL
COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY LIABILITY (CTPL)
INSURANCE PROVIDERS

In compliance with LTO Memorandum Circular Number RIB-2007-854, dated July 16, 2007, all CTPL Insurance Providers are required to interconnect with the Certificate of Coverage Verification Facility (COCVF) of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Information Technology (IT) Project's System to ensure that your transactions will continue to be accepted and processed at all LTO sites nationwide.

Effective August 27, 2007, please be advised that only CTPL-COC policies from accredited Insurance Providers which are duly connected to the COCVF will be accepted for motor vehicle registrations.

***Insurance Providers may contact Ms. RHODA B. IPAC at 0918-9221655 or Ms. JENNIFER BALLADA-BUNCALAN at 0920-9041604 for your contractual, documentary and other requirements.



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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR RIB-2007-854

TO : All Regional and Assistant Regional Directors, Heads of District/Extension Offices, Head – LTO IT Project Management Committee.

SUBJECT : Online and Real-Time Registration and Authentication of Certificates of Cover for Compulsory Third Party Liability Insurance

DATE : 16 July 2007

In line with Department Order No. 2007-28 dated 5 July 2007 of the Department of Transportation and Communications, prescribing the rules and regulations of the integration of the issuance and payment of CTPL Insurance with the LTO IT Project's System and Databases; and pending implementation thereof, during the transition period mentioned therein, there is a need to implement an interim verification system, specifically the COCVF.

In view thereof, all LTO officials and employees and other concerned parties are hereby directed to comply with the following:

1. Effective 25 July 2007, only COCs for CTPL that are verified and authenticated online and real-time under the COCVF System shall be accepted;
2. Stradcom shall, as the project proponent of the LTO IT Project, conduct orientation meetings and trainings on the COCVF to all concerned LTO officials and employees;

This Memorandum Circular shall remain effective until (a) the expiration of the ninety (90) days transition period stipulated in the DOTC Department Order No. 2007-28; or (b) the actual implementation of the Integrated CTPL Insurance Program.

For strict compliance.

REYNALDO I. BERROYA
Assistant Secretary

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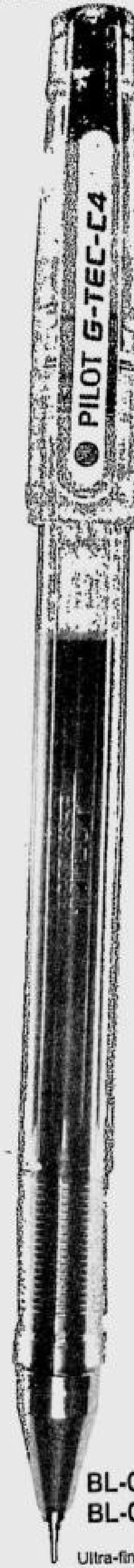

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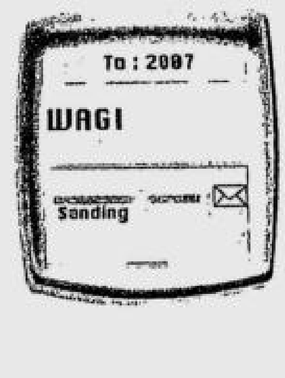

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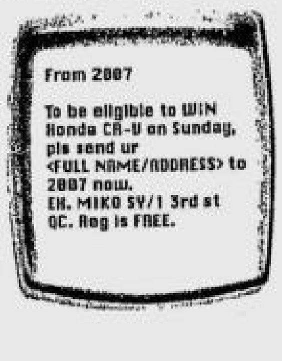

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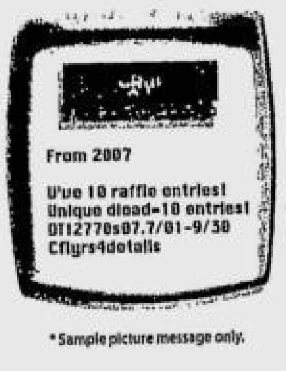
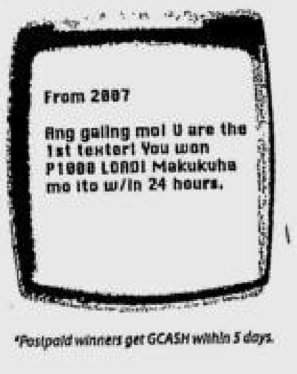


From 2007
U've 10 raffle entries! Unique dload=10 entries! DTI2770s07.7/01-9/30 Cflyrs4details

* Sample picture message only.

At para sa minu-minutong papremyo, agad mong malalaman kung ikaw ang unang texter of the minute.



From 2007
Ang galing mo! U are the 1st texter! You won P1000 LOAD! Makukuha mo ito w/in 24 hours.

*Postpaid winners get GCASH within 5 days.

GMA sits on 90 graft cases; only 2 fired so far

From page A1

and a pay parking scheme in Intramuros.

PAGC found Ferrer liable in connection with an unliquidated P2.2-million cash advance used for the eviction of squatters. The PAGC also found there was no bidding held for the manpower and trucking services used for the eviction.

Ferrer was also found to have reduced by half the Intramuros Administration's share in parking fees projected to reach P11.5 million in the next two years.

"I hope and pray that I will be given a chance," Ferrer said. "Hopefully, they will see the light and I will be cleared."

The PAGC had recommended the dismissal of Ferrer and Calaycay after several months of investigation.

Cabinet-rank execs in 15 cases

But the Office of the President has yet to act on 90 other cases referred to it by the PAGC, which has been entrusted with the specific task of checking graft among presidential appointees. The commission has no jurisdiction over career government employees.

Fifteen of the cases involve high-ranking officials who either head government agencies or are members of Cabinet departments, according to PAGC Director Charito Alvarado.

Alvarado declined to identify the officials facing graft cases filed by the PAGC, saying this would be a violation of an oath that commission officials and staffers had taken to keep the identities of offending presidential appointees confidential until the Office of the President had acted on their cases.

Catura also said he could not discuss the 15 cases, saying he was not knowledgeable about them.

But he said PAGC recommendations go through evaluation by the Palace legal office, or the Committee of Peers in charge of handling cases of Cabinet officials under investigation by the PAGC.

Other Malacañang sources who criticized the OP said the delay in resolving the cases was enough to frustrate some of the PAGC staffers, particularly young lawyers whom some officials described as "still idealistic."

Lawyers want to quit

At least six of the PAGC's more than 30 lawyers, according to the sources, had expressed a desire to quit because they felt that the cases filed against presidential appointees were going nowhere.

Alvarado won't comment on the episode with the six lawyers, but said the PAGC was dealing with their frustrations quietly.

"We try not to be distracted by frustrations and focus on our jobs," she said.

Of particular interest among the PAGC lawyers is how the Office of the President will handle the cases against the 15 Cabinet-rank officials. Although none of them is a secretary, some are perceived to be close to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

A Malacañang source, who asked that he not be identified because he lacked the authority to speak on the matter, said the officials had been appointed to positions that carry Cabinet rank at the finance, labor, energy, transportation, agriculture and tourism departments.

The other Cabinet-rank officials whose cases had been forwarded to the Office of the President were involved in gaming, infrastructure development and environment protection.

Shroud of secrecy

The PAGC acts as the prosecutor in cases involving presidential appointees. The Office of the President, particularly Ermita's office, serves as the judge.

Alvarado said criminal cases could be pursued after the Office of the President confirmed the suspension or dismissal of the 15 Cabinet-rank officials, but "we just can't identify them yet because we might as well try them by publicity."

"We're not here to ruin reputations," she said.

The Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) earlier said that the shroud of secrecy surrounding high-level government contracts had led to the rise of "grander" and more lucrative corrupt practices in the Arroyo administration.

But the TAN said red tape and petty corruption, such as bribery, had decreased as a result of an executive order issued by Malacañang last year. The order reduced transaction fees and trimmed bureaucratic dealings in several frontline agencies.

TAN's observation that more lucrative corrupt practices were increasing supports foreign businessmen's perception of corruption in the country.

Government officials that fail to declare businesses or pieces of property that are in the names of their wives or children under 18 years old are strong suspects for unexplained wealth.

Not on rumors alone

"Due process was observed," she said. "We make sure we're not working on rumors alone. We make sure these cases are airtight because we don't want to lose face if our findings are reversed in court."

Alvarado said none of the officials was aware that they were being subjected to lifestyle checks but they got their chance to air their side before the cases against them were sent for review to the Office of the President.

"We had to talk to them (officials), get their versions but we knew when they were telling us lies," she said.

The PAGC campaign against corruption has been a difficult one, but Alvarado said a glimmer of hope came when President Macapagal-Arroyo matched a P1-billion grant from the US Agency for International Development with P1 billion for the PAGC's antigraft campaign.

Accountants

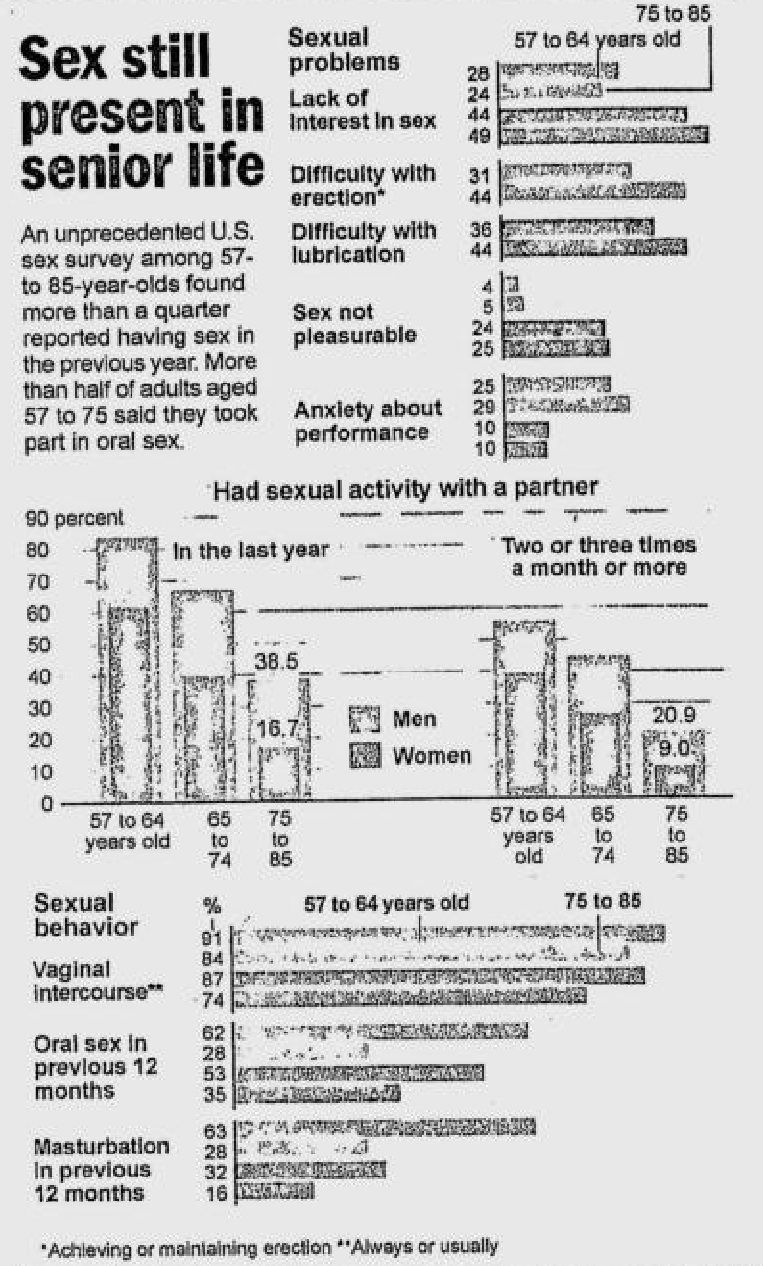
Alvarado said this allowed the PAGC to hire more young lawyers, some of them new graduates, and more people with accounting and auditing backgrounds.

The entry of more lawyers, accountants and auditors in the PAGC resulted in quicker action on cases. As of Alvarado's last count, at least 92 cases had been forwarded to Ermita.

Asked if the increase in the number of cases meant corruption was widespread in the government, Alvarado said there was another way of looking at it.

"It's a double-edged sword. Either the people are more vigilant now or the number of officials stealing public funds has simply gone up," she said.

"But we'd rather look at it on a positive note," she added.



*Achieving or maintaining erection **Always or usually

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine AP

Study on sex after 60 ...

From page A1

the most comprehensive national survey to date of sexual behavior among older adults.

But many older people also report struggling with sexual problems, like reduced desire and erectile difficulties, the survey found.

The new report, which appeared in The New England Journal of Medicine, was based on interviews with more than 3,000 Americans, 57 to 85 years old, who gave detailed descriptions of their sexual activities.

Women less sexual

The study found that for varied reasons, women were significantly less likely than men to report being sexually active from age 57 on.

Women were more often without a partner, for example, and were more likely to say they no longer derived much pleasure from sex.

Experts said that the new survey provided the first clear and complete picture of sexuality in later life and that it should give older adults a sense of where they stand compared with their peers.

"There's a large perception out there that sex somehow does not occur in the later years, and this study demonstrates authoritatively that for many people sexual activity does not diminish much at all," said Dr. Robert N. Butler, president of the International Longevity Center in New York and coauthor with his late wife, Myrna I. Lewis, of "Love and Sex After Sixty."

The researchers at the University of Chicago and the University of Toronto contacted by letter a representative group of 3,005 older adults across the country. Trained interviewers then conducted two-hour face-to-face sessions with each of these men and women.

The study, financed partly by the National Institutes of Health, found that 84 percent of men from 57 to 64 reported having had some sexual contact with another person in the last year, compared with 62 percent of women in the same age group.

Those figures dwindled to 38 percent and 17 percent, respectively, in people 75 and older.

Sex twice a month

But among those adults who were sexually active, about two-thirds had sex at least twice a month into their 70s, and more than half continued at that pace into their 80s.

The lead author, Dr. Stacy Tessler Lindau, an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and geriatrics at the University of Chicago, said the findings should give people a way to gauge their own experience and might prompt those with questions or problems to ask their doctors.

Nearly half of those who were sexually active reported at least one sexual problem, with 43 percent of women reporting diminished desire and 39 percent vaginal dryness, and 37 percent of men reporting erection difficulties. *New York Times News Service*

Retrouvaille: Hope for hurting marriages

RETROUVAILLE, A FRENCH word meaning "rediscovery," is an international ministry designed to help hurting couples heal ailing marriages. It offers couples a chance to rediscover themselves and their spouses, and rebuild a loving relationship in their marriage. Thousands of couples headed for separation have saved their marriages by joining the Retrouvaille program.

The program consists of a live-in weekend and post-weekend sessions. It is a special method of communication that is taught to help husband and wife go beyond exchanging information by communicating on a deeper level of understanding and appreciation. It also helps couples to put the past behind.

It is not a spiritual retreat, a seminar, or social gathering.

A Retrouvaille Weekend is scheduled on Sept. 7 to 9, 2007 at the Saidi Formation House, Taktak Road, Antipolo, Rizal.

All names and identities are kept in strict confidence. For more information, visit the Retrouvaille International website at www.retrouvaille.org

To register, call Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-9020511 or 522-6443, 523-3361; Mar or Armi at 0918-3833247 or 825-2605, 796-6987; Merit or Bernie at 0917-7950682 or 410-7101; Nes or Inday at 0916-4438346 or 938-9719.

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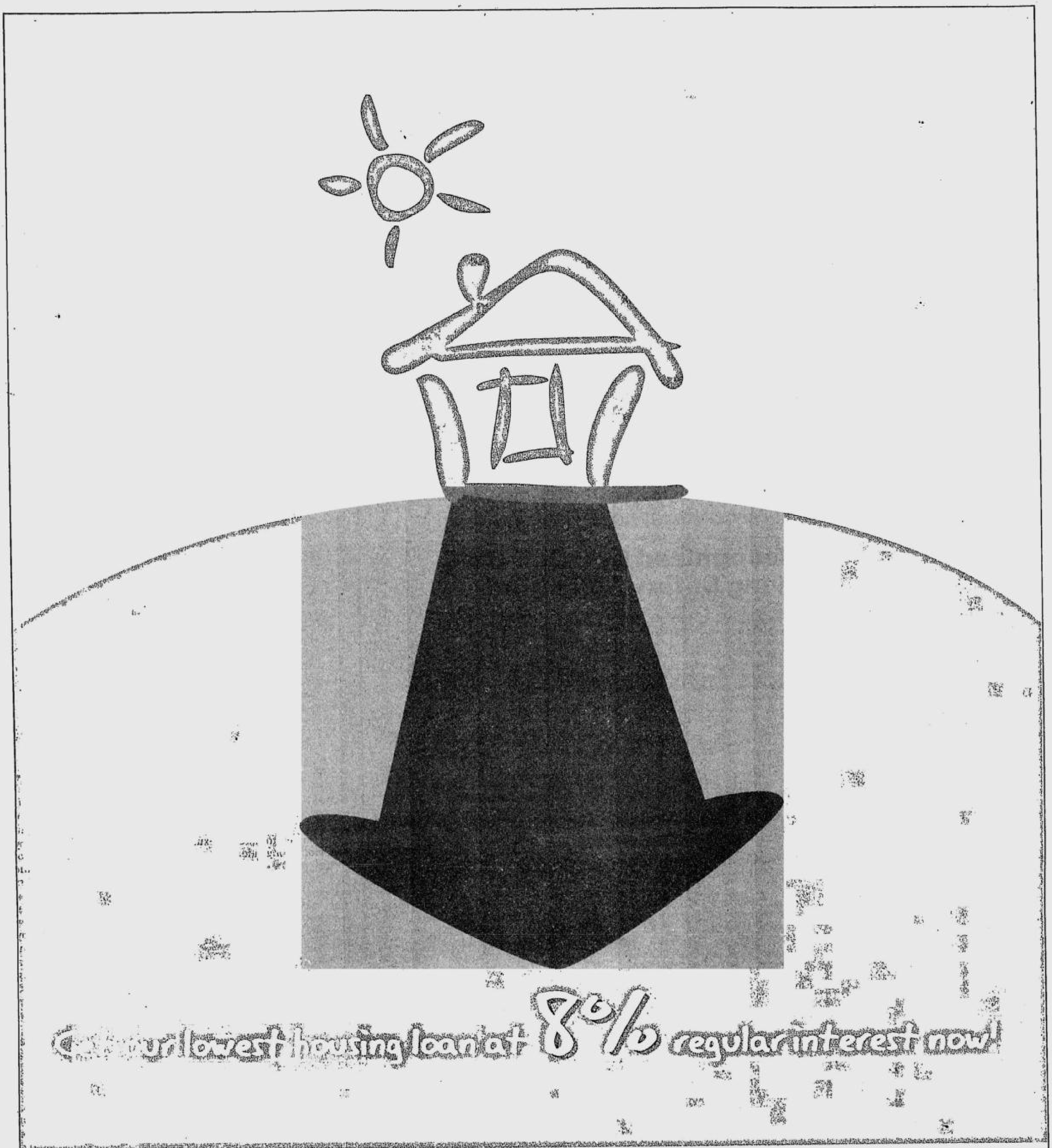
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NCCA head a shoo-in for textbook body

INQUIRER COLUMNIST AND NATIONAL Commission on Culture and the Arts head Ambeth Ocampo is a shoo-in while controversial textbook critic Antonio Calipjo Go is definitely out.

Aside from Ocampo, also being seriously considered for the seven-member special oversight committee of the Department of Education's textbook procurement program are nominees of the Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the Philippines.

Aside from value formation, other sectors like media and the National Book Development Board (NBDB) will also be represented in the panel, according to Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus.

The final composition of the body, which Lapus described as "people with unquestionable integrity," is currently being reviewed by the DepEd and will be made public shortly.

Definitely "*walang kontrobersyal*," like Go, owner and academic supervisor of the Marian School of Quezon City in Novaliches, said Lapus.

The educator "has been accused by some DepEd suppliers of fronting for some publishers. So *pag inilagay mo diyan, meron din kulay*," he pointed out.

Earlier in a statement, Lapus said "even DepEd critics can join the oversight committee so that their concerns can be addressed at the proper venue."

But Go "can contribute to the committee if he wants to," according to the DepEd head.

Contacted by phone, Go yesterday said, "It's okay with me. I don't care as long as they do what's expected of them."

He vowed to "take a close look and judge what will come out of their work."

"I'm not after prestige. I have to do this because of my advocacy to correct flagrant factual and grammatical errors in (government-issued) textbooks," Go told the INQUIRER.

Go has repeatedly chided the DepEd for its "inadequate and misleading" 21-page Errata Guide which aims to correct factual and grammatical errors in civics and culture textbooks distributed to public schools nationwide.

"The guide gave the public the impression that everything's okay already. But the Errata Guide itself has at least 105 errors. The guide needs some more corrections itself," he pointed out.

The DepEd recently distributed more than 70,000 copies of the guide, printed by the publishers of the textbooks in question—Vibal Publishing House, LG & M Corp. and Mary Jo Publishing House.

The guide supposedly refers to 269 errors while "there are more than 269 errors in the textbooks. Some of the corrections in the guide were corrected the wrong way and made the errors worse," Go claimed.

Go reiterated his willingess to "sit down and talk without any fight or recrimination" with DepEd officials about the textbook-related problems "but only in the presence of independent people like some INQUIRER editors and columnists." *Jerry E. Esplanada*

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5. Rosario Terminal
6. Mactan Depot
7. Aparri Depot
8. Poro Depot
9. Navotas Depot
10. Iloilo Depot
11. Roxas Depot
12. Tacloban Depot
13. Palawan Depot
14. Legaspi Depot
15. San Fernando Depot

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT)
Branches
1. Ramon Cojuangco Building
2. Makati General Office Building
3. North Luzon Area
4. Visayas Area
5. Mindanao Area
Philippine Resins Industries, Inc.
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (Pandacan Depots Project)
ROHM Electronics Philippines, Inc.
San Roque Power Corporation
Siemens Power Operations, Inc.
TDK-Fujitsu Philippines Corporation
TeaM Energy Corporation, Pagbilao
TeaM Energy Corporation, Sual
Trust International Paper Corporation (TIPCO)
United Laboratories, Inc.
Zilog Electronics Philippines, Inc.

Warmest greetings to the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. (ASPPI) as you hold your 8th General Assembly.

Your theme, "ASPPI in Partnership with DOLE: Promoting Workplace Safety," shows your commitment to bring together professionals, experts and advocates of occupational safety and health to enhance safety in the workplace. Indeed, your support for the programs of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will definitely raise the level of compliance of all safety measures in business enterprises.

Our national agenda is designed to move our country forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity, and peace and order. Our focus now is to bring the benefids of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place massive infrastructure to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty.

I need the support of organizations like ASPPI to achieve this objective.

Mabuhay!
Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I wish to express my greetings and congratulations to the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. on its 8th General Assembly and Convention with the theme "ASPPI in Partnership with DOLE-BWC: Promoting Workplace Safety."

As the government intensifies its programs and activities on workers' protection and welfare, I am pleased to note of the private sectors' active participation and involvement in the promotion of occupational safety and health through various OSH related activities aimed at instilling a culture of safety and health. ASPPI's continuing partnership with the government and its commitment to advance the practice of occupational safety and health is needed commendable.

Together let us be united in achieving a common goal of providing a safe, healthy, productive and globally competitive workforce.

ARTURO D. BRION
Secretary
Department of Labor
and Employment

It is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc (ASPPI) on the occasion of its 8th General Assembly and Convention with the theme "ASPPI in Partnership with DOLE-BWC: Promoting Workplace Safety."

Your active participation and continuing support to the activities and programs of the Department in the promotion of a safe, healthy and productive workforce is truly commendable.

It is significant to note that through the years, the conduct of regular conventions as well as other safety activities and programs by private organizations like ASPPI have immensely contributed to the promotion of safety, health consciousness and sustained interest of workers and employers in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment in our country.

The DOLE gladly joins ASPPI in its continuing efforts to promote and ensure a safety workplace for all our Filipino workers.

Again, congratulations.

ROMEO C. LAGMAN
Undersecretary
Social Protection
and Legislative Affairs

I wish to convey my warmest congratulations to the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. as it holds its 8th Annual National Convention at the Heritage Hotel on August 24-25, 2007.

As an organization representing the interest of safety professionals in the country, ASPPI has grown so fast with 14 regional chapters nationwide this year. Consistent with the convention theme: "ASPPI in partnership with DOLE-BWC-Promoting Workplace Safety" ASPPI has notably been a true partner of the Department of Labor and Employment in safety advocacy and as technical support to the Bureau of Working Conditions-DOLE in its safety enforcement programs.

I enjoin the safety professionals to step up their efforts in helping the government ensure safe and healthy workplaces.

Mabuhay ang ASPPI!

BRENDA L. VILLAFUERTE,
CESO III
Director IV

My warmest greetings to all!

I am deeply honored to be a part of the 8th General Assembly & Convention of the Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc. (ASPPI)

I wish to express to you my sincerest appreciation for all your efforts to promote safety and health not only in consciousness but in actual practice as well.

It is my hope that your two day convention would bring about a much stronger linkages between and among the concerned institutions whose primary concern is the safety and health condition of the workers and their respective work stations.

Rest assured that the City of Pasay will always be your active partner in the promotion and implementation of the desired occupational safety and health standards in all our business and government institutions.

MABUHAY!
HON. WENCESLAO "PEEWEE" TRINIDAD
Mayor
Pasay City

I wish to convey my warmest greetings to all safety professionals as we hold our 8th Annual National Convention at the Heritage Hotel on August 24-25, 2007.

Consistent with the convention theme: "ASPPI in partnership with DOLE-BWC-Promoting Workplace Safety" ASPPI aims to further team up with the government to promote a healthy and safe workplace.

The 8th Annual ASPPI Convention is more meaningful to us now with 14 chapters organized nationwide. Finally, ASPPI has taken its place as the largest and most respected association of safety professionals in the country.

We express our profound gratitude to those who have supported ASPPI over the years.

More power to ASPPI!

LARRY ANDRES B. SERIL
PME, National President

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Don't go nuclear, Greenpeace asks Asean countries

SINGAPORE—ENVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace urged Southeast Asian energy ministers meeting here Thursday to scrap plans to harness civilian nuclear power for the region, citing safety concerns and weapons proliferation risks.

The call came as ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) began their annual meeting hosted by new Asean chair Singapore, with nuclear safety concerns expected to feature highly on the agenda.

At least three Asean member states, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, have announced plans to build nuclear power plants in a bid to cut dependence on crude oil and natural gas, but raising concerns over safeguards.

Dangerous pathways

"One of the solutions (to energy needs) that they (Asean ministers) are proposing ... is to build nuclear power plants," said Nur Hidayati, a climate and energy campaigner for Greepeace Southeast Asia.

"We say this is a very dangerous pathway if it is followed," she told a news briefing. "We say this is not a solution because it creates more problems and it will last a long time." The ministers expect to discuss ways to secure vital energy supplies which are needed to fuel the region's economic growth.

"Reliable, affordable supplies are essential for Asia's continued growth and Asean is no exception," Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security S. Jayakumar said in a keynote address.

"As one of the world's fastest growing region, Asean will require increasing energy supplies to fuel our rapid pace of economic expansion." While exploring ways to secure energy supplies, Asean should not also overlook alternative sources such as new-generation biofuels and civilian nuclear power, said Jayakumar who is also the minister for law.

As more countries plan to harness nuclear power for their energy needs, Jayakumar noted that ASEAN is now beginning to discuss nuclear safety issues among member states.

But Greepeace activists said the region does not have the expertise and the trained personnel to operate nuclear power plants, and warned of the dangers that plutonium—which is a nuclear waste—could get into the wrong hands.

Plutonium is a key ingredient for the making of a nuclear bomb.

During their annual meeting in Manila last month, Asean foreign ministers discussed how they can strengthen rules to ensure that civilian atomic energy is not used for non-peaceful ends.

Lack experience

Greenpeace said Asean states also lacked the experience in storing and disposing radioactive wastes.

With the region prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, it was unclear if Asean members have the capability to deal with a leaking nuclear power plant, it said.

Jayakumar, meanwile, said in his speech the 10-member bloc will also sign a memorandum of understanding on an Asean Power Grid that "provides the essential framework" for the region to implement the project.

The Asean Power Grid is an ambitious plan to connect member countries to ensure continued power supply whereby countries with surplus reserves can sell to a neighboring country.

Asean groups include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 24, 2007
Bartholomew, Apostle

1st Reading: Rev 21:9-14
Gospel: John 1:45-51

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one that Moses wrote about in the Law, and the prophets as well: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

Nathanael replied, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

"Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary

We know nothing of Bartholomew except his name and so we hear of the calling of the apostles in John. Each one who sees Jesus, goes and finds another to tell about the discovery and bring him back as another follower. Who told Bartholomew? Did Jesus call him personally? How did he become part of the inner circle of twelve? How are we called? Who calls us? Who do we call to come and see, to meet Jesus? The vision of the city of God in Revelation describes what will be—the fullness of the kingdom that was entrusted to the apostles. It is now entrusted to us, that we may bring it to earth. We are to be followers of the Lamb of God, the Crucified and Risen One who is the Savior of all the peoples of the world.

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GMA visits 'tent cities' today

LEGAZPI CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will visit today the Anislag resettlement site in Daraga, Albay, where displaced survivors still reside in tent cities as they await for the turnover of houses being built by various nongovernment organizations, like the Gawad Kalinga and the Daughters of Charity, in the same site.

The President will turnover initially 61 core shelter units worth P470,000.

A total of 201 core shelter units worth P40 million will be turned over by the Department of Social Welfare and Development under the government's Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Effort.

Beneficiaries are resettled typhoon survivors from Barangay Binitayan, Daraga, Albay.

Ms Arroyo is also expected to give P300,000 livelihood assistance to organized groups in the resettlement area. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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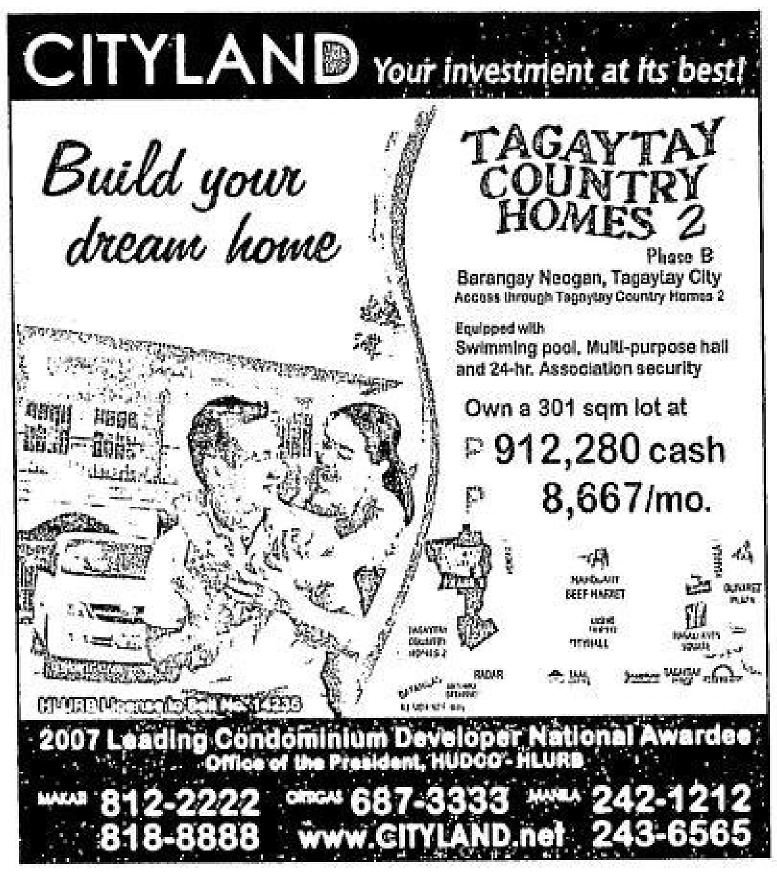

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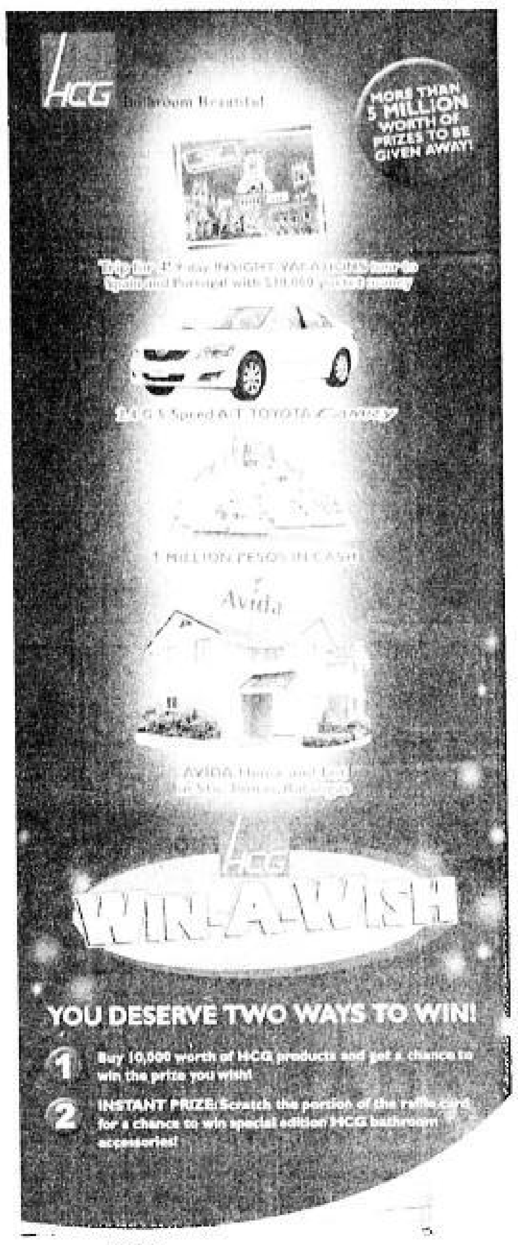

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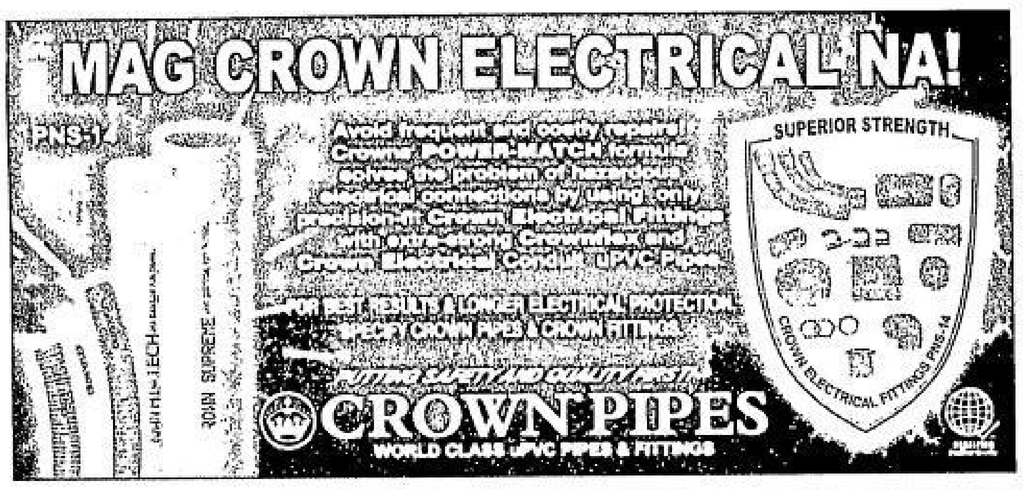

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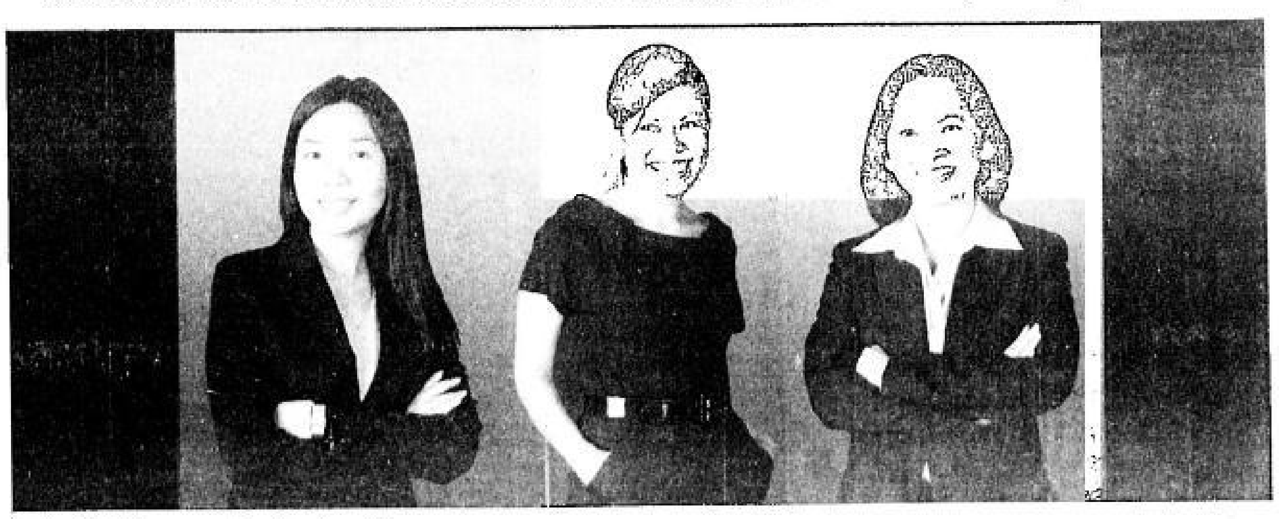

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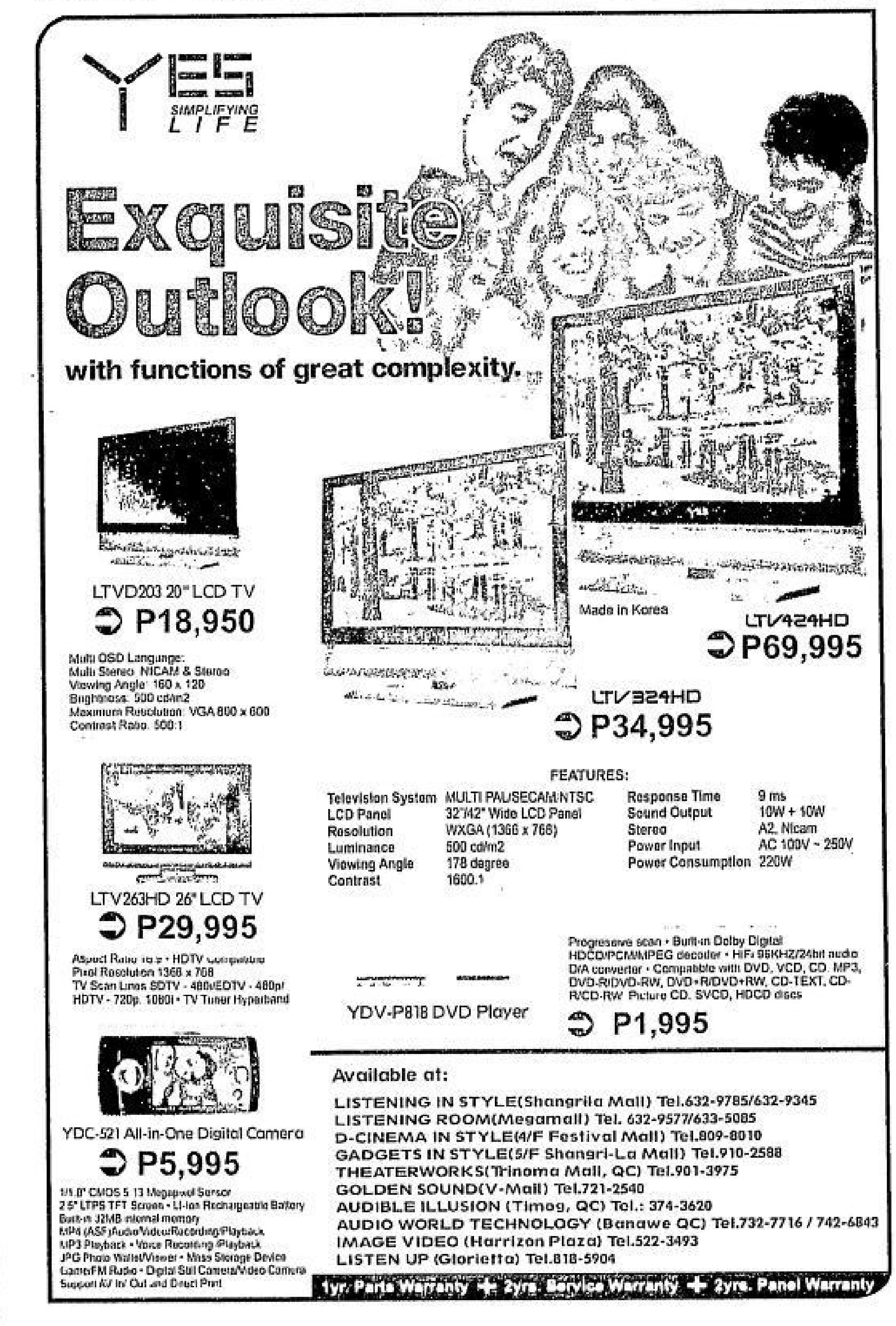

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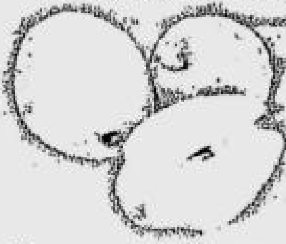
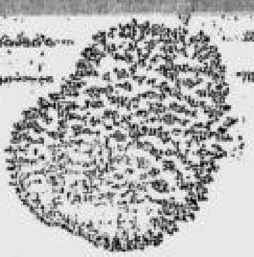

Fragrant Pear
P110 per kg.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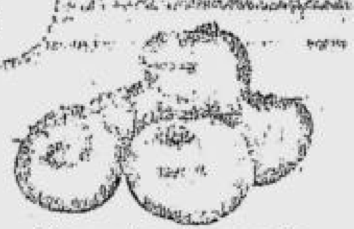
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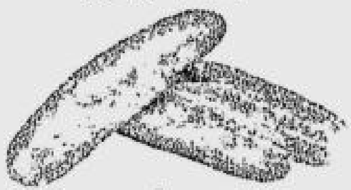
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Health Tips by Bonakid Pre-School

Pagdating ng three years old, kitang kita na ang naging development ng iyong anak mula noong siya'y baby pa lang. Ang mga sumusunod ay ilang ***developmental milestones*** para sa edad na ito at ilang mga tips para tulungan siyang patibayin ang kanyang pagkatao.

Your child can build a tower of more than 6 blocks, hold a pencil in writing position, and sort objects by shape and color.

Pag bumagsak ang building block habang pinaglalaruan niya ang mga ito, maging supportive at bigyan siya ng lahat ng chances na kailangan niya para mabuo niya ang kaniyang tower. Makakatulong ito para lumaki siyang may tiyaga at pagpupursigi.

may tiwala sa sarili

Your child begins to develop a sense of self and compares himself with others, and learns how to make simple choices.

Paminsan-minsan, pagbigyan ang iyong anak sa pagpili ng kaniyang susuotin at bigyan din siya ng chances na magbihis nang mag-isa. Sabihan siya ng "Very good!" at i-kiss o yakapin siya pagkatapos. Sa ganitong paraan, matututo siyang maging independent at may tiwala sa sarili.

may paggalang

Your child is able to understand most of what is said and simple concepts like "now" and "later", "big" and "small". He also begins to play with other kids.

Pag nakikipaglaro siya sa ibang bata, i-remind siya na kailangan niyang magpaalam kung gusto niyang hiramin ang toys ng iba, mag-thank you kapag pinahiram siya at isauli ang mga ito pagkatapos. Ituro din sa kanya na sa game man o paglalaro ng isang toy, dapat niyang hintayin ang kanyang turn. Sa gayon, lalaki siyang may paggalang sa iba.

[illegible]

Pag 3 years old na

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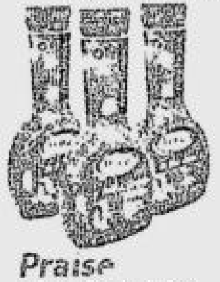
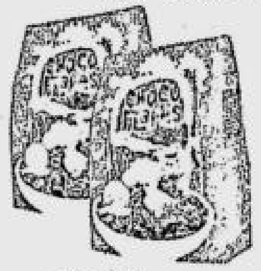

Praise
Extra Virgin Olive Oil
French Vinaigrette (330ml)
P115.10 per pc.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Red Wine (750ml)
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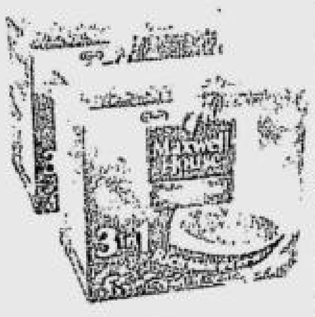
Maxwell
3 in 1 Sugarfree (6g x 11)
P45.05

San Mig Coffee
Original Sugarfree (7g x 20)
P76.80

Del Monte
Pineapple Tidbits (234g)
P15.75

Sting Gold Blast
Energy Drink (250ml)
P17.50

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3934 Series of 2007

A taste of UFC

UFC HEARTY MISUA

Featured Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

For Meatballs:

1	cup	ground pork
1/2	cup	Shrimp, peeled and finely chopped
1	tbsp.	flour
1/2	tsp.	chopped kinchay
2	tbsps.	onions, finely chopped
pinch		white pepper
1	pc.	egg
2	drops	sesame oil

For Soup:

1	cup	bihon or misua
1	tsp.	garlic, minced
2	tbsps.	onion, chopped
1/2	cup	**UFC Tomato Sauce**
4		eggs, soft boiled
2	tbsps.	**Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil**
5	cups	water
1	cube	Chicken Stock
1 1/2	tbsps.	**Datu Puti Patis**
1/4	tsp.	sesame oil
2	pcs.	ginger, small
	pinch	5-spice powder

PROCEDURE:

1. For the meat: Mix all ingredients together. Form into 1 1/2 inch balls.
2. For the soup: Saute garlic and onions in **Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil.**
3. Add **UFC Tomato Sauce,** water and Chicken Stock, then Bring to a simmer.
4. Add uncooked misua and bring temperature down to a simmer. Gently place the meatballs in the misua and cook over low heat for 15 minutes. Season with **Datu Puti Patis** and 5-spice powder. Add a little sesame oil.
5. Carefully peel soft boiled eggs and drop into soup. Bring to a boil and then serve.

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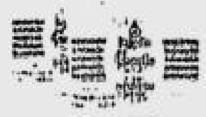
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with FREE Baby Flo gentle Buds (36s)
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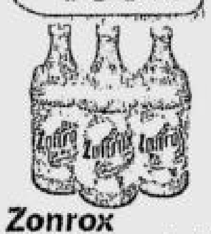
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3934 Series of 2007

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OPINION

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Everyone's at risk

EDITORIAL

THE TECHNOLOGY THAT UNITES THE MIGHTY and obscure, the wealthy and the humble of means, isn't television (class lines get delineated by the programs people choose to watch) but the cell phone. Politically, the battle for hearts and minds since 2000 has been waged by means of text messages. And whether it's President Macapagal-Arroyo sending instructions to her subordinates, an overseas worker keeping tabs on the kids at home, bankers or security guards, the ties that bind are maintained by means of the cell phone.

When news first broke that a conversation allegedly between the President and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano had been intercepted and recorded, a troubling thought sent shivers down the spines of many people. If it can happen to the President, people said, it can happen to anyone. That troubling thought has once more gained currency following the revelations made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in a privilege speech last Tuesday.

We will set aside, for now, why Lacson's witness, retired T/Sgt. Victor Doble, took so long to detail the circumstances surrounding the tapping of Garcillano's phone. Doble explained how the phone tapping was done. He says it was undertaken by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) with the assistance of someone, or some people, at Smart Communications. The media relations machinery of Smart then kicked in, taking pains to deny that the company has a policy of conniving in the tapping of its subscribers' phones. It also denied that its officers or rank-and-file condone, much less assist, wiretapping activities.

But the allegation has been made, and what's more, what was alleged is not beyond the realm of possibility, according to the statements of Smart itself. It is possible, the company said, that someone, acting in an unauthorized manner, might have consorted with the Isafp and helped it. Of course, it can be said that anything is possible, but the question is: Did it happen? And if so, how could it have happened?

The privacy of communication is a constitutionally protected right; it applies to everyone, the exceptions being clearly spelled out in our laws. Our laws are so zealous in this regard that the anti-wiretapping law tries very hard to make any intercepted communication of little or no value in court.

Still, the allegations are grave enough, in terms of their implications not only to national security but to civil liberties, as to require a thorough investigation. There are fundamental issues of governance—not just political, but corporate—at stake here. There are issues involving civilian control over the military, and combined politico-military influence over private enterprise, or people who work for private corporations.

If the Isafp did conduct surveillance operations, who ordered it? If an officer did, why didn't the civilian authorities know about it? If a civilian official authorized it, on what basis? And if somehow, Smart or some of its employees assisted the Isafp, how could it happen without management finding out, or being able to properly determine how it might have happened once allegations were made? Of course, there is a more sinister question: Could Smart have resisted at all a military "invitation" to assist in eavesdropping?

There are technological questions that need to be resolved, as well. Lacson, by way of Doble, suggests intercepting cell-phone calls is quite easy, as is recording conversations for future use and abuse. We have no shortage of technologically knowledgeable people who can verify or dispute this claim, outside of the private firms and public agencies that have a vested interest in dismissing such allegations out of hand.

Good corporate governance, not just effective public relations, suggests Smart would be wise to undertake a more thorough investigation of these allegations. If the Isafp can snoop on its subscribers, then kidnappers and extortionists can do the same, if all that eavesdropping requires is a pliable low-ranking technician. The economy in general, not just Smart, can ill-afford a blue-chip stock taking a hammering in the local or New York bourses because of investor concerns over the vulnerable security of telephone communications in the Philippines.

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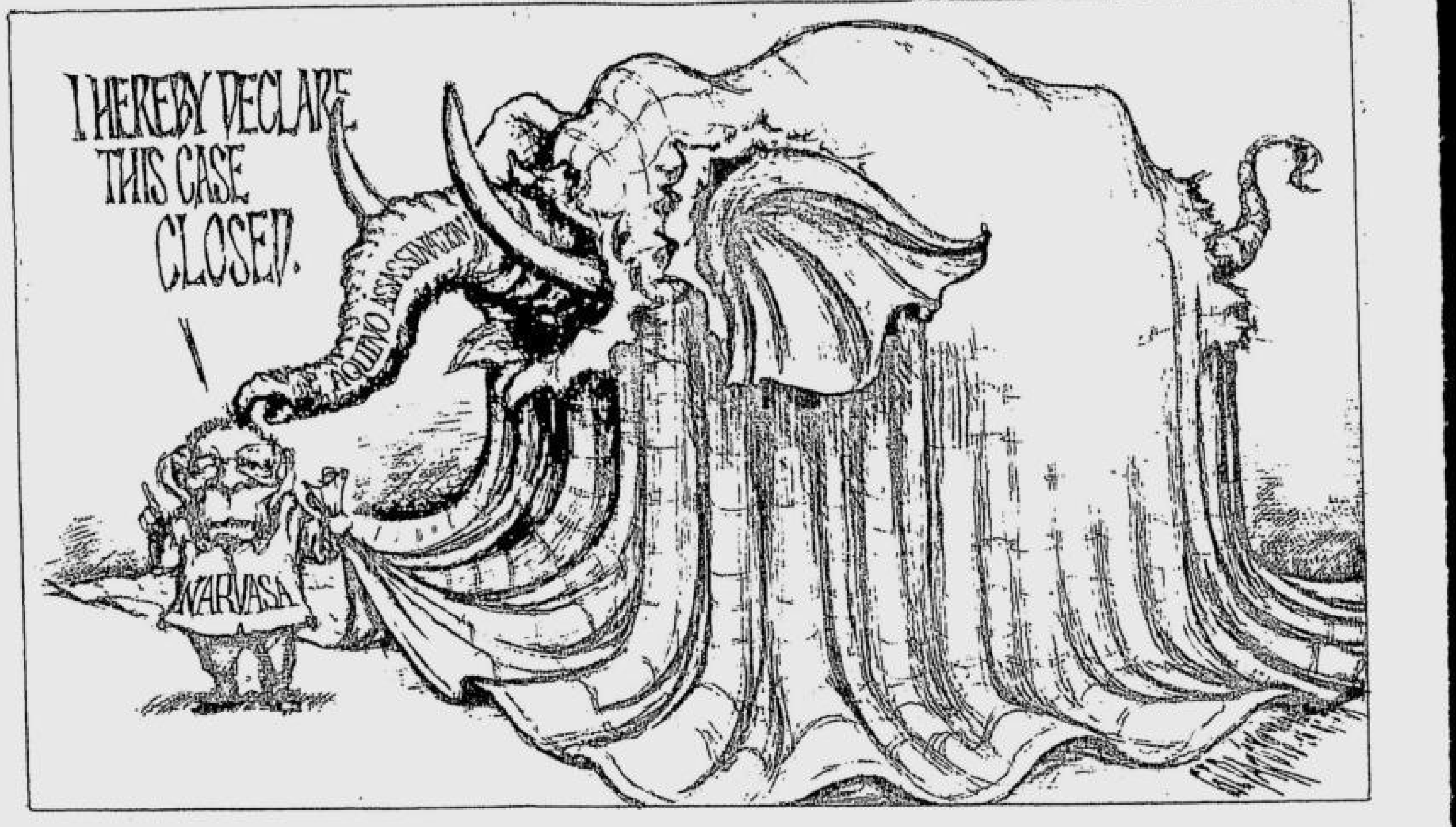
I HEREBY DECLARE THIS CASE CLOSED!
AQUINO ASSASSINATION
NARVASA

Atienza stands up for the environment

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ENVIRONMENTALISTS GREETED WITH DISmay and disappointment the appointment of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources largely because of the controversies over the Arroceros Park and Mehan Garden. But judging from his performance at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday, people might have judged him wrongly and harshly.

First, let us look back at how Atienza got his anti-environment reputation. As mayor of Manila, he got into a long-running feud with Winner Foundation, a group of women who reforested and nurtured Arroceros Park which used to be the site of buildings of the Department of Education, and with environmentalists who wanted Mehan Garden restored to its original purpose as a zoo and botanical garden. Atienza had built a parking building on a small portion of Mehan Garden, directly behind the Metropolitan Theater, and an office for Manila schoolteachers in a corner of Arroceros Park. Winner did not want anybody else to touch Arroceros as if it owned the park. But it is owned and titled to the Manila teachers whose office was squatting at City Hall, and they wanted an office on the lot they own. It was like a squatter on somebody else's property preventing the rightful owner from building a house on his own property.

Not that Winner is a squatter. Then Mayor Alfredo Lim had agreed to allow it to reforest Arroceros, and it is now a beautiful mini-forest in the heart of the urban jungle. But the owners of the lot, the teachers, wanted to build an office in a tiny corner of the lot and, in the process, a few trees would have to be cut. Winner and the environmentalists did not want that.

The teachers kept badgering their mayor, insisting on their ownership rights. And the mayor was no longer Lim but Atienza, who sided with the teachers. The office was built and some trees felled, but the park is still there.

When Lim was elected mayor again, Winner also won. He gave back Arroceros Park to it, and promised more improvements: park benches and picnic tables, lights, a pool at the center of the park and a petting zoo. When the Metropolitan Theater is reopened, it will be the venue of cocktails for the audience during intermissions.

On the parking building, Atienza himself said it was part of the rehabilitation and reopening of the Metropolitan Theater. It was to be the parking site for the vehicles of the theater audience and a terminal for buses and jeepneys during the day.

"I did not cut a single tree there," Atienza said. And now Mehan is brightly lighted and promenaders enjoy it at all hours, unlike before when it was dark and a haven of drug addicts and criminals.

The development of Mehan, Arroceros, Plaza Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton), Intramuros, Escolta, Plaza Sta. Cruz, Avenida Rizal, Carriedo and Quiapo were all part of a grand design to revive the downtown area of Manila, Atienza explained. "It needed only a few more years to complete and I hope Mayor Lim, for whom I have the highest respect and best wishes, will continue it," Atienza said.

We hope so, too. In fact, I think not only Manila but the whole metropolitan area needs more and bigger parking buildings like the one Atienza built. The streets of Metro Manila are chaotic because there are no parking places for the hundreds of thousands of vehicles there. Drivers are forced to violate parking laws because there are no places to park their vehicles legally. This only makes the towing companies (which have been outlawed by Lim) very rich.

Drive through the side streets of Metro Manila at night, even in the poorer and squatter-infested neighborhoods, and you will see vehicles double- and triple-parked on the streets, leaving little room for vehicles to pass.

But back to Atienza and how he stands on the problems confronting the environment. First, the most important as far as Metro Manila is concerned: the La Mesa Watershed. He is not inclined to give the proposed housing project on the highest portion of the watershed an Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC), even with the Supreme Court decision and presidential proclamation. No project will be allowed without this ECC.

A foreign-funded study by the University of the Philippines, done at the request of then Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, reported that the housing project will pollute the water in the reservoir where the water of the metropolis comes from.

The Supreme Court decision upholds the right of the MWSS employees to have a housing project, Atienza explained, but not necessarily in La Mesa. The project can be built anywhere else but not at La Mesa. The retired employees have been offered other sites and many of them agree to it, but their backers, mainly Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay (which is very far from La Mesa) and his contractor-friend, insist on La Mesa because it is right beside the commercial district of Novaliches, and they can sell the land, for which they paid only ₱5 per sq m for more than ₱5,000 per sq m, which is like winning the lotto a hundred times over.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's insertion of the condition "subject to private rights" in her proclamation of La Mesa as a protected watershed does not mean that those private rights can run roughshod over the rights of 12 million Filipinos, Atienza said. He stressed, "After all, private rights cannot be superior to public rights. The union will not be denied its housing project, but not in a place where it will endanger the lives and health of millions of people."

More on Atienza's views on other environmental concerns in another column.

Peace Corps: the America we do not see

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE TRIAL HAS JUST BEGUN FOR THE MAN accused of killing a well-loved Peace Corps volunteer. Julia Campbell put her journalism career on hold to serve in Bicol, in one of the country's poorer provinces, and lived amongst people who would later call her affectionately "Ate Julia." It took Julia's death to remind Filipinos of the "kinder and gentler nation" of which George Bush the Elder spoke.

That, strangely enough, is the hidden face of America in the time of George Bush the Younger. And whose face instead do they project to the world each time America's name is mentioned? Dick Cheney's. Imagine him snarling right after he pulled the trigger and mistakenly shot his lawyer-friend while hunting game. "Darn, I missed."

John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps to help counter the stereotype of the "Ugly American" and of "Yankee Imperialism" in most of the former colonies of Latin America, Asia and Africa. Over the next decades, young idealistic Americans answered JFK's "call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, 'rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation'—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself."

From all accounts about Julia's work in Bicol, the Peace Corps couldn't have done better. She was a free-lance journalist before she came to our shores. In her blog, she said: "At the age of 38, I decided to step out of the rat race of New York, join the Peace Corps and board a plane for Manila." She lived in a nipa hut in Donsol, Sorsogon, without running water, and delighted in the care and attention of the townsfolk. Apart from her teaching, she had another project, a Marine Ecology Learning Center called Bahay Kalikasan that would teach "environmental science for children, solid waste management seminars for adults and … create livelihood programs for the local fishermen." She excitedly wrote in both English and Filipino: "We have a donor—*Salamat po*.. Thomas P. Waters Foundation!—and 25 percent of the project will be paid for by the local community. *Ito ay malaking proyekto, talaga!*"

She was later re-assigned to the big city, Legazpi, still a whole day's drive south of Manila, where she taught English and organized English-language training seminars. She went missing in April this year in Banaue, some 10 hours north of Manila and famous for the rice terraces carved on the mountainside. At the time of her death, she was one of 167 Peace Corps volunteers assigned to the Philippines.

News reports say that she joined the Peace Corps (quoting, I suppose, from either her blog or her application forms) "to show people in the world what Americans are really like because after 9/11, people had the impression that Americans are bad, selfish and greedy." From all the tributes, she certainly achieved that, and more.

I might have to correct her timeline though. No, that image problem did not emerge soon after 9/11. Indeed, right after terrorist attacks, America—the world's only remaining superpower—gained the world's sympathy, and won respect for the dignity of its bereaved and the heroism of its victims.

It has been said that people all over the globe love to love Americans and hate the United States. On Sept. 11, 2001, that distinction dissolved. Until then, the common image was of America's public and official self, so to speak, its president, its warships and fighter jets. The World Trade Center tragedy exposed America's private and unofficial self—of fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, parents and children, grieving their loss; of firefighters who risked or lost their lives in the line of duty; of a coming together of strangers now bound by a shared ordeal. It was one of those rare moments that brought out the personal, sensitive, and, I will add, fair-minded side of America that the rest of world rarely got to see except as art or fiction. But it was the invasion of Iraq that revived the distinction and resurrected the image of the global bully.

Following this public/private distinction, we must also ensure that the Filipinos' remembering of Julia goes beyond the public and the official. It certainly is nice to have President Macapagal-Arroyo confer posthumously the Order of the Golden Heart on Julia and, separately, on the Peace Corps, in formal ceremonies at Malacañang Palace. Add to that the honors at the House of Representatives earlier this month, when Speaker Jose de Venecia gave the Congressional Medal of Achievement to "the best sons and daughters of America [who] have lived and worked in 139 host countries" and, in particular, to Campbell, a "martyred volunteer … who out of empathy and compassion, touched thousands of Filipino lives."

The real challenge, however, is how to deepen the goodwill that Julia fostered, and keep it from being whittled away by the misadventures of George W. Bush. The Arroyos and De Venecias live in their own world, so to speak, where feelings do not become real until they are documented—and of resolutions, medals and citations, they have plenty. The rest of the nation lives in another world, where feelings of respect, love, of mutual nurturing and support, are not real if they are merely written on paper, and come to life only by engaging people in flesh-and-blood and becoming part of their lives and being called "Ate."

That, coincidentally, is where the strength of the true America lies: in the likes of Julia who found not sacrifice but fulfillment in living in a nipa hut located on the poorer side of an already poor town.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@mail.com

Politics of violence

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

FOUR DAYS AGO, THE ENTIRE NATION WENT into an agonizing reappraisal of its gory fratricidal conflicts during the past 36 years by recalling two events that took place on the same day, Aug. 21, but 12 years apart from each other: the grenade bombing of the Liberal Party election eve rally in 1971, and the murder of opposition leader, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983.

These two events not only shaped Philippine history and the nature of democratic political competition like no other event during the past 50 years did, not excluding the proclamation of martial law by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972, because they were marked by incredible carnage.

The Plaza Miranda bombing nearly wiped out the entire senatorial slate of the opposition Liberal Party in the 1971 election. But the major consequence of the bombing was the extensive damage it wreaked on the democratic political system. It marked the end of a period of civility and tolerance among the political elites. And it irreversibly damaged the two-party system that had stabilized political competition since independence, and paved the way for the declaration of martial law in 1972. The bombing was pivotal in the drastic shift of the country's regime to a dictatorship.

Ferdinand Marcos' diaries have confirmed that he first seriously considered putting the country under martial law with his suspension of the writ of habeas. That was his testing ground for a future successful installation of an authoritarian regime. Plaza Miranda was the turning point on the path to dictatorship and the entry of the Philippines to the Asian authoritarian club of the 1970s. The bombing forever ended Plaza Miranda as the Filipino people's forum for freedom of speech and civilized, non-violent debate.

The assassination of Aquino 12 years after the bombing was the benchmark event for the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship and for the march back to democratic rule. It eliminated the only credible opposition alternative to Marcos since the carnage of Plaza Miranda. It was Aquino, who was not in the rally, who was left to carry on the fight for the opposition until he was murdered.

Aquino's assassination sparked the People Power Revolution of February 1986. But ironically while the Plaza Miranda bombing and the Aquino assassination were bloody, the imposition of martial law and the Edsa 1986 People Power revolution, which brought about profound regime change, did not shed a single drop of blood.

These violent intra-elite confrontations resulted not in greater democracy but in the domination by the segment of the elites grouped around Marcos and the dismemberment of the political opposition composed of the out of power counter-elites.

Later evidence showed the rejuvenated Communist Party of the Philippines under Jose Ma. Sison was responsible for the Plaza Miranda massacre. It was meant to split the contending political elites (represented by the Nacionalista and Liberal parties) to hasten the communist revolution. The strategy succeeded in splitting the elites, but failed to accelerate the social revolution.

Suspicion at first fell on Marcos, whom the Liberals blamed for the bombing for the obvious reason that he stood to gain from the physical elimination of his prospective rivals (Senators Aquino, Gerardo Roxas and Jovita Salonga). The public accepted this explanation and showed their anger by sweeping out seven of Marcos' eight Nacionalista candidates in the 1971 senatorial election.

We tend to forget that in the Plaza Miranda bombing and in the Aquino murder, the elites themselves took the heaviest casualties, in terms of lives lost and the destruction of the institutions they had built to support the system in which they alternated in power within the framework of the 1935 and the 1987 Constitutions. Their own electoral wars in regular elections, which are supposed to be peaceful vehicles for political competition, fostered as much violence as the long standing wars against Islamic separatists in Mindanao.

The violence that marred the intra-elite conflicts surrounding the Plaza Miranda bombing and the Aquino murder has been superseded by the violence surrounding a new form of conflict stemming from a new policy of annihilating the 39-year communist insurgency.

In this military and political exclusion campaign to crush the insurgency by 2010, the casualties through the extrajudicial executions have been high. An estimated 200 to 800 leftist activists have been arbitrarily killed since the start of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001 under this "all-out war" policy against the communist insurgency.

Since the Aquino murder in 1983, there has been a qualitative change in the victims. The political elites have now stopped killing one another in an organized manner to exclude their rivals from power. The governing elites have transformed political competition into a violent ideological struggle. They have created a new class of "enemies of the state": the legal Left, in addition to the armed wing of the CPP, the New People's Army.

The Aquino murder and the Plaza Miranda bombing were remembered with the accent on the heroism of Aquino and the victims of the bombing, who were extolled as heroes of democracy. We forgot that democracy is an ideology built on peace and compromise. These events tell us that violence has been the hallmark of the development of Philippine democracy and its history has been written in blood.

Divas and social standards

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FEATURED RECENTLY ON "OPRAH" WAS A documentary written and directed by an 18-year-old student. The documentary sought to re-create a groundbreaking social experiment conducted in the 1940s that was used to argue the wisdom and necessity of racial integration in American public schools.

The experiment involved giving children a choice between two dolls, one "white," the other "black." A child would be asked to pick the "nicer" doll, and then point to the doll which wasn't "so nice." Invariably, every child—boy or girl, black or white—would pick the white baby doll as the "nice" one, and when asked why it was nice, the children would say because it was "white." Poignant indeed were scenes in which a black child would be asked to pick the doll which "looks like you," while on the child's face one could see the play of emotions as he/she realizes his/her looks aren't "nice" at all.

More than 50 years after the impact of social standards of beauty on the self-esteem of minority children was demonstrated, Oprah Winfrey pointed out, nothing seems to have changed. If at all, the social pressure to live up to social standards of physical attractiveness has only escalated, what with entertainment and advertising upping the ante.

The same show featured young people who confessed to feelings of low self-esteem after one too many insults, put-downs and hurting questions. One of them was a Korean-American MTV jock who confessed to being obsessed for most of all her life with getting the "fold" on her upper eyelids that would allow her to look more "Western."

* * *

THIS wasn't exactly news for Filipinos, for most of us have grown up with feelings of inadequacy for any number of physical attributes—short stature, flat nose, slit eyes, flat breasts and, of course, dark skin.

Before science and commerce entered the picture, there was nothing most of us could do about these God-given features. We jumped 12 times at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve to get taller. We slept with laundry pins on our noses to create a higher bridge. Until now, when Filipino women are with child, we are advised to sleep with pictures of cute white babies under our pillows so our babies would look like them. We are told to crave only for "fair-colored" fruit, like *singkamas* (turnips) or apples or bananas to have fair-skinned children. We're even warned against eating dark-fleshed or "ugly" fish, lest our babies end up looking like these creatures.

But all these remained in the realm of old wives' tales, and for most of us, when these didn't work, there was nothing to do but accept what we were born with. Recently, though, with the advent of the cosmetic surgery industry, as well as the relentless marketing of procedures and products that promise to help us attain the kind of face and body we so admire in actors and celebrities, money seems to be the only obstacle. If we can afford it, then there's no stopping us from getting taller, fairer, more attractive. Nothing, that is, except maybe genetics.

* * *

THE TROUBLE is, the relentless promotion of these products and services is premised on the creation—or rather, the perpetuation—of myths and biases, stereotypes and standards that are too often deceptive and unfair, as well as beyond the reach even of scientific advancements or deep pockets.

That hasn't stopped many people, though, from reaching for the unattainable. Even in urban poor areas, for instance, hole-in-the-wall clinics have sprung up, offering liposuction or even breast enhancement at bargain prices, and most probably, at cut-rate standards as well.

A TV show on the topic even featured a housewife whose family struggled with their daily needs but still managed to set aside money for her breast lift, which she would have done at the neighborhood clinic of dubious repute.

And given the state of our health delivery system, where many folks live all their lives without seeing a doctor or paying a visit to a health center, how to explain the proliferation of private clinics, many of them in malls, whose bread-and-butter happen to be skin and hair consultations? I guess there's just no predicting where people want to place their priorities.

But give a thought at least to the child from a poor family who believes she is inherently less worthy simply because she wasn't born to the standards of, say, a KC Concepcion or Angel Locsin. What do we say to this child? That real beauty lies inside her and that what matters more in life is smarts and spirit? Will she believe us? Or will she simply choose to buy, instead, a bottle of skin whitener?

* * *

FRIENDS in an e-group are up in arms (or rather, fingers flying over keyboards) over the articles and columns of a self-proclaimed lifestyle diva who managed to insult in one fell swoop: OFWs, a foreign airline, certain brands of colognes, the sands of Boracay, as well as her critics.

Are those who have taken umbrage at her uppity observations merely suffering from a shortage of humor, not to say irony? Or is she indeed guilty of fostering class strife with her sweeping dismissal of Filipinos who happen to work abroad?

I think she was merely trying to be clever, catering to her so-called "audience" by playing on their shared biases against working class Filipinos. Her article was what we would call a "cheap shot," cheap because it is easy to hurl insults at people who cannot defend themselves, or who you would not, after all, brush elbows with at cocktails. Unless, that is, they were the waiters. Be warned: You know how waiters can be when they want to get back at "second-rate, trying-hard, copycat" diva wannabes.

Clues to Philippine pre-history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AT THE START OF EACH SEMESTER, WHEN I meet a new class for the first time and go over the syllabus, I watch out for the collective groan that comes when I announce that a visit to the National Museum is required. For many college students who had to endure a grade school trip to the museum, going there a second or third time is considered cruel and unusual punishment. This mind-set is not the fault of the museum, it is the fault of the teacher or museum guide who did not infect the students with a sense of discovery and appreciation of our past. Many of my students complain after visiting the National Museum that they do not want to see another piece of blue-and-white ceramic for the rest of their lives, but they say this because they do not appreciate not just the artistic and symbolic beauty of the pieces but more importantly the fact that these are traces of a long and complex story that goes beyond our written history.

If you haven't visited it yet, there is a very comprehensive display of ancient porcelain excavated from Philippine archeological sites in the Ayala Museum. Ably curated by the president of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines, Rita Ching Tan, the exhibition is but a small fraction of the Roberto T. Villanueva collection of ceramics that used to be kept in a private museum in Forbes Park. At first glance, you will be overwhelmed by a hall filled with ceramics, but Rita Tan has not only arranged them by point of origin—China, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia—she has also arranged the Chinese section chronologically by type so that anyone can follow the development of Chinese ceramics from the 9th to the 19th century and appreciate these artifacts, which have been imported into the Philippines over the centuries. Now that the United States is making such a big fuss over Chinese exports, and we are told not to eat White Rabbit candy or give children Chinese-made toys, it would be interesting to note that we have been importing things from China for over 1,000 years.

Over the years, I have been picking up pieces of ancient ceramics from antique shops not for a systematic collection but rather as souvenirs of a pre-Spanish past. Over the years, I have tried to read up on ceramics starting from the pioneering work by Leandro and Cecilia Locsin's "Oriental Ceramics Discovered in the Philippines." Much of the material is scattered over a number of books, all of them out of print and hard to obtain. And even if I had a book on ceramics or a photocopy, there is no substitute to seeing actual pieces. Now that the Roberto T. Villanueva collection is on display and arranged so sensibly, one can get an introduction to pre-colonial trade.

A smaller exhibition of Chinese ceramics, also curated by Rita Tan, is on view in Kaisa Museum in Intramuros. I tell myself that if I had these resources when I was a student, my visits to the National Museum and my lessons on pre-colonial Philippine history would have been enriched and made more engaging.

If the present Ayala Museum exhibition were done 20 years ago, I would have been more appreciative of my mother's modest collection of ceramics. Once she arranged them all neatly on a shelf in my study and I was so upset by the intrusion that I gathered everything and left them in a box outside the door. Infuriated, she threatened to break a particularly beautiful Song period celadon plate on my head but changed her mind when she realized how much more valuable—historically and monetarily—the plate was than her son's hard head. Years later, I ate my pride and sheepishly asked for a few pieces and, like all mothers, she forgave. I inherited the whole lot of mostly Ming 15th to 16th century pieces.

These days whenever I go to the beach, I spend time with goggles and snorkel, scanning the bottom of the sea for broken shards of ancient ceramics that fell off some ancient ship. In Mindoro, I found some Ming period shards of blue-and-white ceramics and pieces of black ceramics made in Thailand. In Cebu, aside from a broken Noritake plate and a torn condom, I found two pieces from a Ching (probably 19th century) plate.

When I show these to the locals, I'm usually told that these things turn up on the shore after a storm, making me imagine shipwrecks with ancient cargo in the vicinity. I'm often shown other broken pieces that are just tucked away in homes, sometimes even used as markers for a game of *piko* or even "*sungka*."

Now that most of the archeological sites on land have been exhausted, the last frontier is the sea. Clues to our pre-history lie on the sea-bed, and we are glad that the National Museum Underwater Archeology Section, in cooperation with interested individuals like the Frenchman Frank Goddio, are bringing things to the surface. By patiently documenting each piece in its historical context, they help complete the proverbial jigsaw puzzle we call Philippine pre-history.

So many resources available today were not around when I was a student. We hope these can be disseminated in a more popular and lively way so that museum visits will be a joy rather than a chore.

* * *

My lecture on Juan Luna at the National Museum which was cancelled due to bad weather last weekend has been reset to Saturday Sept. 15 at Abalaza Hall, National Art Gallery.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Finglishes

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHEN I READ THAT "*MISKOL*" WAS CHOSEN AS "SALITA ng Taon" (Word of the Year), with "*roro*" and "Friendster" as the closest runners-up, I thought, Filipino-English is here to stay, as a major lingua franca. "*Miskol*" is, after all, derived from the cell phones' "missed call," "*roro*" from the inter-island "roll-on, roll-off" transport system and "Friendster" is the Internet system.

Let me give a quick explanation about the Salita ng Taon to make sure you know what I'm talking about. The Filipinas Institute of Translation, with support from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Blas Ople Foundation, has been holding annual Sawikaan conferences, during which they review entries that nominate words that play important roles in contemporary Filipino life.

I was struck by the number of entries that are derived from English. Yet, after reflecting some more about "*miskol*," "*roro*" and "Friendster," I'm inclined to take back my original hypothesis about the emergence of Filipino-English as a major shared language in the Philippines. Instead, I'm going to suggest that Filipino, as a national language, is assimilating many English words at a faster rate, but once the words enter Filipino, they "become" Filipino. Filipino-English itself continues to develop—but parallel to Filipino, with English words.

World Englishes

The Encarta World English Dictionary has several entries on global variations of English, for example, Singapore English, Malaysia English, Caribbean English. There is an entry for Philippine English, with the synonym Filipino English. Encarta is quite drastic in saying that this Filipino English "has some co-official status with Filipino," based on the observation that English is used "in varying degrees by over half of the population." Encarta goes on to describe some characteristics of Filipino English, for example a "rhotic 'r,'" where the "r" is rolled with the tip of the tongue curled back and raised, full vowels (thus the number "sehven" rather than "sevn"), a preference for the perfect tenses ("We are doing this" rather than "We do this," "We have done this" rather than "We did this") and, finally, "distinctive" vocabularies borrowed or adapted mainly from Spanish and English.

I remember that back in the 1970s, people referred to Filipino English mainly as Taglish, and associated this with the "*burgis*" (the bourgeoisie or the upper classes). It was an era of turbulent political activism, a mix of anti-dictatorship and nationalist sentiments, so it's not surprising that when people talked about Taglish, it was often in jest, a way of putting down the upper classes for not being able to speak Filipino. Often, Taglish was called "colegiala English" because it was associated with the more exclusive Catholic schools for girls.

Imagine now one of these *colegialas*, still in uniform, exclaiming: "*Ay*, how *baboy* the pig." Many of my *colegiala* friends at that time hated that example, claiming they never actually said that about pigs, but admitting, sheepishly that, yes, they sometimes did think their brothers were quite *baboy*.

"How *baboy* the pig" was illustrative of the social context of Filipino-English, a way of poking fun at the chattering classes who were unable to express themselves in Filipino (or other local languages), and, more importantly, did not see anything wrong with this. Many upper-class Filipinos actually took pride in not being able to converse in the "dialect" with their helpers at home or workers in the office. (A dialect is a variation of a language, like Filipino-English can be called an English dialect. But Tagalog, Ilokano, Hiligaynon, Tausug—all of these are languages, not dialects.)

'Mekhehthih?'

That snobbery still exists today; in fact, I can't help wondering at times if the calls to improve English in the Philippines are actually ways for the upper classes to say, "*Hoy, muchachos* and *muchachas*, it's so *mahirap* for me to learn Filipino, so will you please *naman* improve your English so I can understand you?"

Filipino-English—call it "colegiala English" or "conyo English"—lives on, thriving on the class divide. Sure, with time, our upper classes have learned to say, "How *kadiri* the *baboy*," but the Filipino-English vocabulary remains predominantly English, more up to date with the latest slang terms from the United States than local ones.

Yet if Filipino-English is the product of class divisions, it is itself mutating because of differences even among the upper classes. You can tell, for example, with the phonetics, the old rich usually sticking to a more Hispanicized English, like the one described in Encarta (rolling r's, full vowels), while the new rich and middle classes tend toward a more Americanized (or trying to be Americanized) English, exemplified for example by the aspirated "t" and "k" and less full vowels (thus "Mekhehthih" rather than "Makati"). "Call center English," some of my old rich friends huff about this new dialect.

Filipino-English has variations based, too, on where it is spoken in the Philippines, so we can actually speak of Tagalog-English, Cebuano-English, Ilocano-English. Again, English forms the core of the vocabulary, but words from Tagalog, or Cebuano, or Ilocano, crop up occasionally, used as garnishes.

To confuse you even more, I'd say that Filipino-English is being modified as well by new accents, new tones, new words from the diaspora, sometimes with the most unsettling outcomes. Once, listening to a speaker at a local conference, it took me a few minutes to realize he was using a new variation of Filipino-English, an amalgam of Australian English, with expressions like "mate," pronounced the Australian way, and Bisaya (actually Waray, I found out afterwards by interviewing him) with all its short vowels.

Next week, I'll write a bit more about Filipino-English but also look into the possibilities that we might be seeing an anglicized Filipino, an Inglipino or Engalog, emerging. I do have a take-away for you to reflect on. Try to translate this sentence I picked up from a Filipino newspaper: "learningin ang lenguang dingerszie" and tell me if it's Filipino-English, Inglipino or some other new linguistic species.

'Doc Louie'

I want to mention the death of a good friend and a great doctor, Glorioso Saturay. "Doc Louie" to many, he spent his entire professional life serving the poor. I had the privilege of working with him in AKAP, an NGO that focused on tuberculosis control, in the 1980s. He went on to serve the poor from a small clinic in Quiapo. I hope to write a full column about Doc Louie, but thought I should first share information on his wake and burial. His remains lie in state at San Juan de Dios Polyclinic on R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. On Monday he will be transferred to the barangay hall in Pag-asa, Quezon City. Burial will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, after a Mass at Our Lady of Hope Church, also in Pag-asa.

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LETTERS

Did Ninoy die for the Filipino in vain?

"Brother Ninoy need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life. He should be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, ... Those of us who loved him, and who remember him in his rest today, pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all the world."

AS WE OBSERVED LAST AUG. 21 the death anniversary of our beloved Benigno Aquino Jr., I could not help but recite these lines (taken from the magnificent eulogy of US Sen. Edward Kennedy for his slain brother Bobby) and dedicate them to our very own brother Ninoy who was felled by an assassin's bullet while he was debarking from a China Airlines plane as he returned from exile 24 years ago.

Despite several warnings that he might be killed if he set foot on Philippine soil, Ninoy did not lose trust in dictator Ferdinand Marcos, believing that the much-vaunted intelligence of the latter would prevent him from making a rash and unreasonable action. Ninoy was wrong. Marcos was already seriously ill and had lost control over the actions of his wife and subalterns.

He ignored all warnings and seemed foolhardy—like Jose Rizal's moth which went to the fire in search of light—as he dared fate and returned.

"I have carefully weighed the virtues and the faults of the Filipino, and I have come to the conclusion that he is worth dying for," said he.

In remembering his death, we, the living, should renew our dedication to the unfinished work which he fought and died for and nobly advanced, and by which he made us all see a new birth of democracy and freedom. This may sound Lincolnian, but I am not ashamed to admit that Lincoln's speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania cannot be more apt as we remember and honor Ninoy so that "we will take increased devotion to that cause for which he gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here and now highly resolve that Ninoy shall not have died for us in vain."

May Ninoy have peace and eternal rest in heaven and we in our temporal sojourn on earth.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
GeRMayuga@aol.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
GLOBAL INTERNET EDUCATION & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT INC. Unit 602 Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Chanyoung Lee	Account Officer
GLOBAL INTERNET EDUCATION & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT INC. Unit 602 Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Ki Woong Choi	Marketing Officer
GLOBAL INTERNET EDUCATION & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT INC. Unit 602 Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Chunjoo Kim	Account Officer
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Masaki Kurabayashi	Project Superintendent
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Shusaku Yamashita	Chief Civil Engineer
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Daisuke Nakayama	Deputy Project Manager
COMVERSE PHILIPPINES INC. 29/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Sudipto Ranjan Deb	Project Consultant
COMVERSE PHILIPPINES INC. 29/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Joong Won Park	Senior Project Consultant
COMVERSE PHILIPPINES INC. 29/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Rajesh Natarajan	Project Consultant
VENTECH INTERNATIONAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 23/F Insular Life Centre, Insular Drive Cor. Commerce Ave., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Vincent Coughlan	Instrument Design Manager
VENTECH INTERNATIONAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 23/F Insular Life Centre, Insular Drive Cor. Commerce Ave., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Richard Scott Ferris	Piping Manager
SINGAPORE TELECOM INTERNATIONAL PTE. LTD. 5/F Globe Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Chia Lieh Yang	Consultant
SINGAPORE TELECOM INTERNATIONAL PTE. LTD. 5/F Globe Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Eng Soon Frederick Chia	Project Consultant
XMAN SERVICES PTY LTD PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1203 12/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Mark James Williams	General Manager
XMAN SERVICES PTY LTD PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1203 12/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Michael Charles Zannes	Finance Manager
HYPERAPPLICATIONS ON MOBILE, INC. 3/F Bloomingdale Bldg., Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Iannis Bernard Charles Hanen	Architect for Friendster
BERNA INTERNATIONAL TRADING INC. Km. 16 RSTI Cpd., Pamplona I, Las Piñas City	Seong Hyeok Oh	President/Chairman
LUCKY NIOS CORPORATION Unit 81 ANPN Plaza Bldg., 1240 Edsa, Balintawak, Quezon City	Nagyum Han	Vice President
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROC. (PHILS.), INC. 5150 North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Deanna M. Bishop	Senior Vice President-Human Resources
CB RICHARD ELLIS PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F Ayala Triangle Tower I, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Leighton Ming-Chieh Tsai	Director-Project Management
J.P. GLOBAL INVESTMENTS CORP. Unit C5 Virra I Condo., 500 P. Burgos St., Makati City	Guoping Rong	Investment Consultant
O.G.I MANAGEMENT & CONSULTANCY CORP. 1834 M.H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila	Gyu Il Oh	Chief Operating Officer
REAL COOL TRADING CO. INC. PAS 1-A3 Galleria Shopping Center, Taft Ave., Pasay City	Xuanyu Lin	Sales Manager
SAMM SUNG GLOBAL COMPANY Unit 34 C Pearl of the Orient Tower, Roxas Blvd., cor. Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila	Sukdon Oh	Financial Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

The DOLE-NCR will hold a Pre-Regional Human Resource Conference Workshop in the areas of education and training, human relations and labor relations on August 24, 2007. Interested employers/companies are invited to participate. You may call 3392016, 3035923 for more details

(PDI - August 24, 2007)

JDV's cheap 'trapo' gimmick

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA'S proposal to grant unconditional amnesty to all so-called "enemies of the state" is nothing but another *trapo* gimmick. The proposal does not even state what or who will be considered "enemies of the state." Worse, it does not address the people's disenchantment with the present administration, or with the system as a whole. In other words, it is another Band-aid solution to the lingering problem of insurgency and rebellion in our country.

De Venecia's claim that it will be the lasting "legacy" of this administration is nothing but empty rhetoric. For as long as the roots of rebellion—such as grinding poverty, injustice and one-sided development, not to mention the massive corruption in government—are not addressed, no amnesty will be able to solve the problem.

And as if to add insult to injury, the proposal is also meant to benefit Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, whose only crime was to expose the corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the government as a whole. Is De Venecia saying that Trillanes is already considered an "enemy of the state" even though his case is still pending?

It seems De Venecia cannot differentiate an "enemy of the state" from an "enemy of lying, stealing, cheating and corruption."

What Trillanes and all victims of injustice who have revolted to express their disenchantment with the system seek is justice and a lasting, permanent solution to our problems. Not a cheap gimmick, like an amnesty, coming from a *trapo*.

—ROEL GARCIA,
spokesperson, Maypagasa,
roelgarcia_772000@yahoo.com

How Mayor Lim 'mugged' workers in Baywalk

I AGREE WITH PEDRO DUMANCAS: now that Baywalk no longer has its bars and coffee shops, I don't see any reason to go back there; I can no longer enjoy drinking coffee and chatting with my friends in that part of Manila. ("The Baywalk massacre," INQUIRER, 8/20/07)

I believe the famous sunset of Manila Bay is not only for the people who live in the hotels and condominiums located on Roxas Boulevard. I believe that the sunset is also for ordinary Filipinos to enjoy. With the bars and coffee shops, Baywalk served as a good venue for enjoyment and relaxation; one could go there without the fear of being mugged.

Mayor Alfredo Lim removed the bars and coffee shops, thinking only of himself. He didn't think of the ordinary workers who would lose their jobs—like the hobbit servers who were never given a chance to work in ordinary restaurants (only time will tell if they would find another job again); and the musicians who chose to perform for the ordinary people—they will not be heard again in that part of Manila.

—ROMMEL LINDAIN,
Ayala Center, Makati City,
rlindain@yahoo.com

HB 1257 to deliver on CARP's bigger promises

NELIA SALAZAR IS RIGHT ON THE Department of Agrarian Reform's mishandling of funds. ("Small matters proponents of CARP extension must address," INQUIRER, 8/8/07)

But there are key distinctions in the four bills seeking to extend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)—which ends in June 2008—that have been filed in Congress. Those filed by Representatives Junie Cua, Abraham Mitra and Edcel Lagman merely compel the program's extension. They exclude substantial changes in DAR's "bloated, inefficient, corrupt, pro-landlord and pro-developer" land acquisition and distribution drive—which makes CARP vulnerable to defiant *hacienderos*.

In fact, Cua's bill contains alarming provisions that "legitimize" reversals against the farmers—illegal conversion, leaseback, "farmland as collateral" (FAC), among other mechanisms that negate their genuine ownership of land. And with FAC, the government practically relinquishes its obligation to provide support services to CARP beneficiaries and to invest in rural areas. Yet it is Cua's bill that has questionably drawn DAR's support.

Thankfully, we have an alternative that addresses these very flaws: Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel's House Bill 1257. Salazar should find hope in its nine key provisions: (1) acceleration of land acquisition and distribution within a seven-year completion target and with sufficient funding from General Appropriations; (2) strengthened credit and support services (including collateral-free loans and capability-building projects) to farmer-beneficiaries; (3) resolution of implementation problems, such as issues on retention limit, standing crops and installation of farmer-beneficiaries; (4) categorical declaration that CLOAs and other titles issued under any agrarian reform program shall be indefeasible one year from registration to avoid the delaying tactics by landowners; (5) direct and physical distribution of all agricultural lands, as opposed to non-distributive schemes that do not help the farmer-beneficiaries' economic and social conditions; (6) equating "installation" to the actual, physical, peaceful and continuous possession of awarded land, with the government ensuring security and success; (7) establishment of an implementation structure for the program's completion, including DAR's reorganization, strengthening of its Adjudication Board, creation of interagency committees on support services and oversight; (8) recognition of women as program beneficiaries, mandating gender-responsive support services; and (9) recognition of the rights of all other qualified beneficiaries, and their legal standing in cases involving their land.

By offering specific solutions to the "small matters" previously ignored, HB 1257 can deliver on CARP's bigger promises for the Filipino farmer.

—AISON GARCIA,
Saligan, G/F Hoffner Building,
Ateneo de Manila University, QC

Indefinite completion date for Calamba-Sto. Tomas road?

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO in her State of the Nation Address announced that by March, the SLEX would reach Batangas Port.

For this to happen, the Star highway (which connects SLEX to the Batangas Port) should be completed by then. Of the three sections of Star Highway, the Sto. Tomas-Lipa section has long been completed; the Lipa-Batangas City stretch is still under construction. On the other hand, the Calamba-Sto. Tomas section, the subject of four presidential groundbreaking ceremonies in the past, has not been started.

It is estimated that given the construction rate of past government projects, it will take three to four years to complete the same.

March of what year is Ms Arroyo referring to?

—JOSE CASALS,
Casiguran, Sorsogon

Carping about CARP

THE COMPREHENSIVE Agrarian Reform Program is a big joke in this country. The government parcels out small agricultural lands to farmers in the belief that they, as landowners, will naturally become more productive. Wrong! After so many years, this has proved to be nothing more than an *ignis fatuus*.

The government itself is to blame. Without credit facilities available to the farmers, they go the normal route—borrow money from crop buyers or middlemen at humongous interests, putting up their future crops in hock. At the end of the day, they have barely enough left for their family's needs, and so they have to borrow again. This cycle repeats itself interminably. Most of the farmers end up selling their farm holdings.

The Land Bank of the Philippines is supposed to provide the needed credit. But what is happening instead is that, more often than not, it lends money only to entities that can provide greater assurance in repayment and profit. Farmers, to them, are all deadbeats. Think about it: Where do you find the Land Bank offices? Are they found in rural areas? Heck no, they are nestled right smack in urban centers.

—STEPHEN L. MONSANTO,
slmonsanto@yahoo.com.ph

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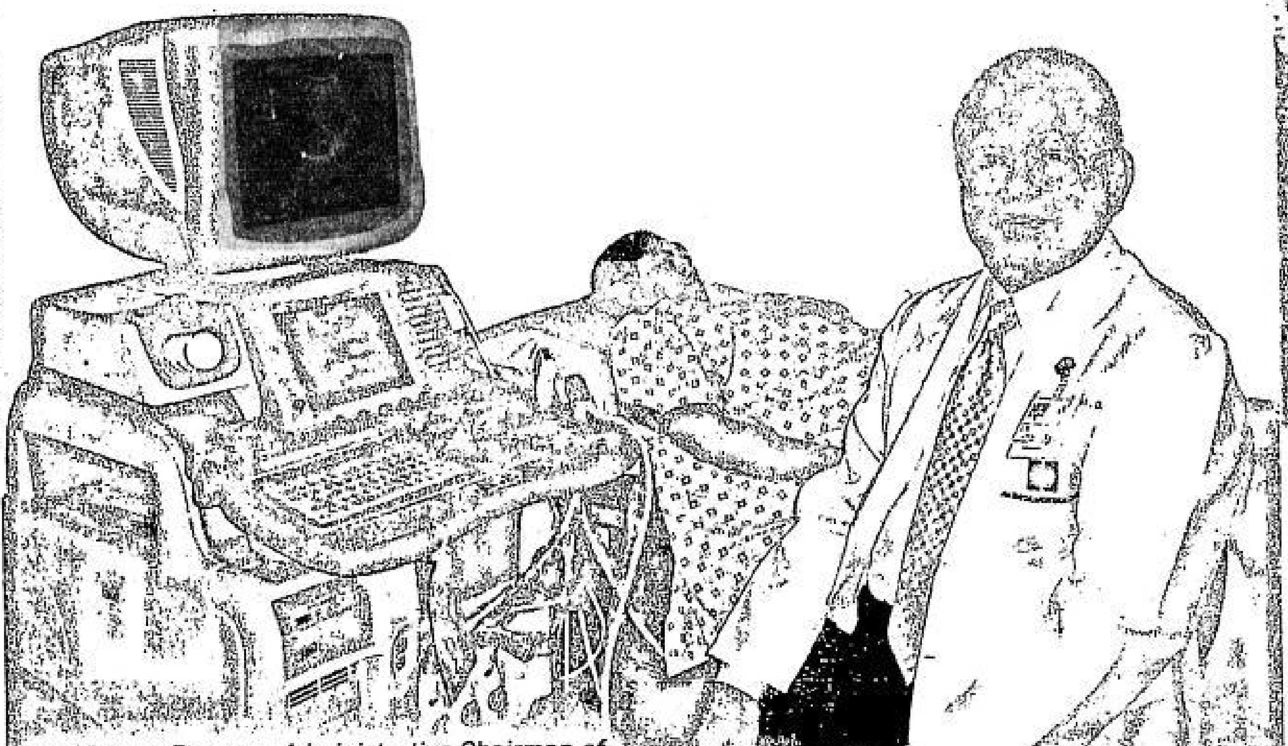

Dr. Vicente Romano, Administrative Chairman of The Department of Radiology examines a patient using LOGIQ 9.

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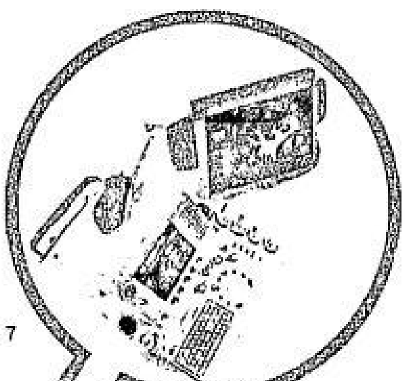

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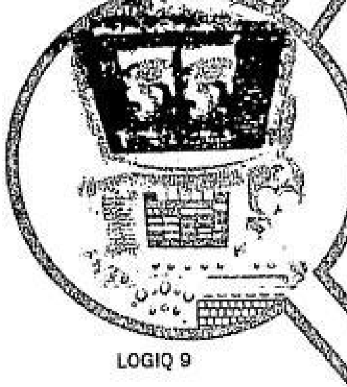

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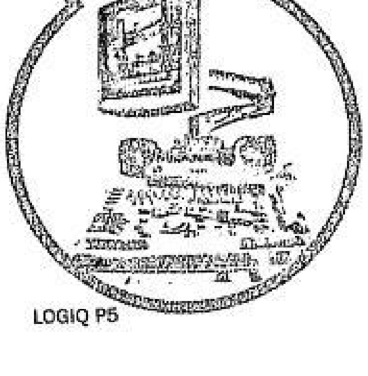

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'By, Aylabyu,' fallen lieutenant texted girlfriend ...

From page A1

A LEGACY OF SERVICE: Army Capt. Jaime Salvador holds a picture of his son, 1st Lt. Ludwig Salvador, who was killed on Saturday along with 15 others near Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, the exact same place where the elder Salvador once fought the MNLF in the 1970s. RAFFY LERMA

PETTING THE PET: Bernielyn Cabral, girlfriend of slain Marine 1st Lt. Salvador pets his dog at the Taytay Memorial Gardens in Taytay, Rizal, on Thursday. RAFFY LERMA

could happen, and I remember myself telling him 'I love you' and telling him to make sure he did not get hit in the face," said Bernielyn Cabral, 25.

She was recalling a phone conversation she had with Ludwig shortly before he and his team were deployed to Silangkum, Ungkaya Pukan town. Salvador apparently "texted" her moments before he "jumped off" for the last mission he would lead as company commander.

Cabral was among the mourners who gathered at Villamor Air Base on Monday night when the remains of 13 of the slain Marines were brought back to Manila.

Father also fought in Basilan

By her side was Ludwig's father, Jaime Salvador, a retired Army captain who himself saw action in Mindanao in the 1970s against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Amid the grief that surrounded them, the elder Salvador managed to keep his military composure in the way he tried to make sense of his son's death.

"I fought in the same area where my son was killed and I am aware of the high ground (often enjoyed by the enemy) that could work against the government troops. I am also aware that the rebels will always have the advantage as far as mastery of the terrain is concerned," he said.

The grieving father recalled how, during his tour of duty, he also lost many men because of "this same reason." He was then a platoon leader engaging MNLF forces in Basilan led by Gerry Salapuddin, who years later would become a congressman after the separatist group signed a peace agreement with the government.

'General' Salvador

Cabral said Ludwig, even when they were still classmates at the Meralco Foundation Institute, "dreamed of becoming a general" and kept this dream alive by eventually enrolling in the Philippine Military Academy.

"So the moment we (his classmates) learned that he entered the PMA, we were already calling him 'general,'" she said.

But with Ludwig's career cut short by the latest military debacle in Basilan, "In my heart, he is already a general and his gallantry will always be remembered and honored in the hearts of many," Cabral said.

In other parts of the country, tributes not only from family members but entire communities continue to be held for the Marines killed in the Aug. 18 encounter.

Tribute to Soloren

In Sto. Nino, South Cotabato, hundreds of residents on Wednesday night lit candles and lined the highway for a motorcade held in honor of 1st Lt. Erwin Soloren, 23.

Soloren was a member of PMA's Mandirigma ng Dangal ng Lahi (Mandala) Class of 2006 and the ninth best finisher of the batch.

He was salutatorian of his grade school class, and graduated with honors from the Notre Dame of Marbel High School in Koronadal City. Before he entered the PMA, Soloren took up civil engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila.

From the General Santos City International Airport, the casket bearing Soloren's body arrived at the family residence at around 6:30 p.m., amid wails and weeping.

"The government should have sent to the battlefield experienced soldiers and not fresh graduates. I think it was a technical error," Soloren's father Porferio told reporters.

Mayor Antonio Damandaman said Soloren "brought pride and honor" to the town, whose residents "grieve over his death."

But the mayor also decried the government offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu as a waste of lives and money, saying: "Military action has proven not effective. Since I was a young boy, there was already fighting in Basilan and Sulu. Now, there still is."

Honors for Udaundo

In Manila, the parents of Air Force 1st Lt. Claudio Udaundo Jr., an Air Force pilot killed in a helicopter crash also in Basilan on Saturday, said the honors being heaped on their son have somehow cushioned the pain.

"I have relatives who would tell me, 'Your child was a good man, he is now a hero because he defended our country,'" said Rachel Udaundo, the pilot's mother.

"Whenever I hear something like that, somehow, that eases the pain in my chest," she told the INQUIRER at the wake held at the Philippine Air Force mortuary.

Udaundo, 27, was considered the first casualty from the Air Force since the military launched an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf on Basilan last month. He was then piloting an MG-520 attack helicopter, one of the three choppers scouring the combat zone, when his craft reportedly encountered engine trouble.

He left behind seven siblings and wife Marilyn, whom he married last year just months after he was assigned to the 15th Strike Wing based in Sangley Point, Cavite.

Libingan ng mga Bayani

While the family can bury Claudio in his native Gatarran, Cagayan, Rachel said a more fitting resting place for her son would be the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

"It will be a sacrifice to visit him all the way from Cagayan but we will go visit him there (at the Libingan), especially on [Nov. 1]," she said.

The pilot's grandparents are also expected to arrive from Hawaii for the burial set on Aug. 30.

Palace to Senate: Drop 'Hello Garci' probe; work to pass 24 priority bills

From page A1

The opposition said the conversation was evidence Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 election. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing. Her allies in Congress killed two opposition attempts to impeach her last year.

Even before the Senate could vote on whether to tackle the "Hello Garci" probe as a committee of the whole, Senate President Manuel Villar has already made the anticipated testimony of Doble second priority.

In a phone interview, Villar said that he had no "personal preference" on whether the wiretapping scandal should be reopened.

"We will just let both sides debate on the issue and then probably vote on the matter. What is important is that we ensure that this will not hamper our work in the Senate or distract us from our main line which is to legislate. My main concern is that we maintain our production, that is what we are going for," said Villar.

To keep the Senate on track in legislating urgent bills, Villar said the Hello Garci probe, if approved by the majority, would likely be conducted after regular Congress sessions. Meetings are held from Monday to Wednesday after 3 p.m.

Thursday hearings

"Our plate is already full, we might have to hold extra hours for this (Hello Garci), probably Thursdays," said Villar.

The Senate committee on rules will meet on Tuesday to discuss concerns raised by administration senators on the legal implications of playing the wiretapped conversation before voting on whether to convene the Senate committee of the whole to dig deep into the scandal.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the probe was unlikely to hamper the Senate's work on other pressing legislative matters. "It's just a matter of scheduling," he said.

Common legislative agenda

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Wednesday sought the Senate's cooperation in passing 24 measures approved as a "common legislative agenda" during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting in Malacañang two weeks ago.

Ermita cited the proposed P1.226-trillion national budget for 2008.

He said the Arroyo administration was on its way to achieving a balanced budget by next year with projected revenues of P1.236 trillion by 2008.

Ermita said the amendment of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act was also important because it could bring about lower electricity rates by promoting more competition in the power sector.

He said Senate ratification of the Jpepa would pave the way for the entry of Filipino nurses and health professionals to Japan.

Other priority bills

Ermita said the other priority bills included the long-term care for senior citizens, the use of farmlands as loan collateral, the extension of the land reform law, stiffer penalties for election violence.

"The President is saying that we can probably use more of our time to pass these laws," said Ermita who also added that Malacañang would invoke Executive Order No. 464 if Congress insist on pursing its Hello Garci inquiry.

EO 464 bans government officials from testifying in congressional hearings without the President's approval. In spite of a Supreme Court ruling last year upholding the right of Congress to hold investigations in aid of legislation, Ermita said the order remained valid.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the military should snub the planned Senate hearing. "I think they should refuse unless the Commander in Chief will allow it because the Supreme Court said the chain of command has to be followed," Gonzalez said.

Perjury

Also yesterday, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said Doble could be slapped with perjury if he testified in the planned Senate hearing because he had previously told a House panel that he was unaware of the wiretapping.

Apostol said the tapes that Doble revealed in Lacson's privilege speech on Tuesday could not be used in any impeachment or criminal case.

"It cannot be used in any judicial, quasi-judicial, administrative and legislative body so that is a useless piece of evidence. I don't know why some people would like to use that as evidence," Apostol said.

Need corroboration

House Minority Floor Leader Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan told the INQUIRER that Doble's statements in Lacson's videotape required corroboration by other witnesses or pieces of evidence if the opposition was to initiate another joint congressional inquiry in the House.

"Frankly, I don't think his statements are compelling enough. They require some amount of corroboration," Zamora said. "He mentioned names. Let's go toward that direction and hear from them. This is the sort of corroboration that will greatly help," he added. *With a report form Leila B. Salaverria and Norman Bordadora*

2 farmers escape, seek SC protection from AFP

From page A1

Brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo petitioned the high court to issue an order placing them under its care without the participation of the military or any law enforcement agency, according to the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) which is representing them.

The brothers also said they did not wish to be placed under the Witness Protection Program (WPP) of the Department of Justice.

They urged the court to appoint an independent commissioner from among its ranks or those of the retired justices to examine Raymond's statement about his and Reynaldo's ordeal and investigate the various places where they had been detained.

The two sought a temporary restraining order and later a permanent injunction to prevent the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the defense secretary and the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) from arresting and detaining them and violating their constitutional rights.

FLAG's Jose Manuel Diokno said in a news conference the two escaped from detention in Pangasinan on Aug. 13 after being abducted in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, on Feb. 14, 2006. and were tortured by the military. They escaped while their guards were having a drinking session, Diokno said.

Raymond said in his statement attached to the petition that while in Zambales, he and his brother saw and talked to two missing University of the Philippines students—Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno—who were also being hurt by their captors. He witnessed the killing of the two students' companion whom he identified as Manuel Mirino, he added.

Raymond said retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Sgt. Rizal Hilario and other AFP officers were present or actively participated in their torture. He also identified some of their abductors as Cafgu members Michael, Madning Puti and Pula de la Cruz, and Randy and Rudy Mendoza.

Leftist activities

From the questions asked of the brothers as they were being tortured, it appeared that they had been abducted because of their alleged involvement in leftist activities or the NPA, according to Diokno.

The Manalo family earlier filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for the brothers' release, but the Court of Appeals junked their plea after the military denied having the brothers in its custody.

Diokno said FLAG saw it fit to ask for the "novel measures" in its petition to the Supreme Court, saying the danger to the two was "at its most critical level."

Supreme Court summit

Diokno also said the recent Supreme Court summit on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances gave FLAG hope that the tribunal would act on their prayers.

Another FLAG lawyer, Theodore Te, said that some of the measures the group sought were recommended during the summit.

"Without the protection of this court, they have every reason to believe they will be hunted down, abducted again or simply killed outright," the brothers' petition read.

"There is no government agency or entity that petitioners trust with their physical custody, other than this Court."

No precedent

The FLAG lawyers said in the petition that while there was no precedent to the issuance of the petition for the Manalo brothers, the Constitution had given the high court the "exclusive authority" to issue rules about the protection and enforcement of human rights.

The lawyers also asked the court to examine the places where the brothers had been kept incommunicado, which they said was prohibited by the Constitution.

The Manalo brothers were not presented to the media during the press conference because of safety concerns.

According to the petition, the brothers were subjected to beatings, bathed in urine, whipped with a chain with a barbed wire attached to its end, had water poured in their nostrils and made to eat rotten food. They were also warned that their families would be harmed if they escaped or revealed what had been done to them.

Raymond said he and Reynaldo were first brought to Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, and learned their location after he initially escaped and asked the people where he was. He was later recaptured.

Detention centers

He also said he and his brother were brought to a detachment in Pinaud, San Ildefonso; and another one in Sapang, San Miguel, Bulacan; Camp Tecson in San Miguel; a camp of the 24th Infantry Battalion in Limay, Bataan; and a house in Zambales.

Raymond said Palparan talked to him while he was in detention, and that he knew who Palparan was because he had seen him on TV.

He said that while in detention, he saw Manuel Mirino being taken out of detention. Later, he saw him dead and being set fire to.

He said he and his brother planned their escape from their detention in a Pangasinan house after noticing that their guard had become lax. They escaped after their guards had a drinking session, and walked toward the highway and boarded a bus to Cubao.

What Went Before

IN THE EARLY MORNING OF June 26, 2006, armed men seized two University of the Philippines students from their rented house in Hagonoy, Bulacan, according to witnesses.

Abducted were Karen Empeño, 22, a sociology student doing research about the plight of Bulacan farmers, and Sherlyn Cadapan, 29, a human kinetics student and community organizer for the farmers group Alyansang Magbubukid ng Bulacan who was two months pregnant.

Witnesses said a farmer, Manuel Merino, was also taken after he tried to help the students.

The three were then made to board a private stainless jeep. According to a July 2006 report by the Asian Human Rights Commission, the jeep bore the plate number RTF 597.

The militant League of Filipino Students, of which Empeño was reportedly a member, accused Army soldiers of being behind the abduction.

Empeño and Cadapan's parents asked the Supreme Court to compel the military to release their daughters. Named as respondents in the petition for habeas corpus were retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, then commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division based in Nueva Ecija, Romeo Tolentino, then commanding officer of the Northern Luzon Command, and other military men.

On July 19, 2006, the high court ordered the military to present the victims on July 24. But military officials denied they were holding the students.

Last April, Cadapan, accompanied by three women and a man, reportedly showed up at her mother-in-law's house to get some clothes. But Cadapan reportedly stayed quiet when asked about her disappearance and the identities of her companions. *Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research*

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Atienza opposes Puerto mining ban

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY JOSELITO ATIENZA yesterday said he would try to convince Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn to reverse a decision he made to ban all mining in the city, saying the ban would scare away foreign investors.

"He may send a wrong message to all—both LGUs and the investors in the country—that the Philippines is only for small-scale mining operations," Atienza said.

The country, he said, should "absorb large-scale investments" so these could benefit the "ordinary folks."

"We don't want also to discourage investors in the mining industry because we want the common folks to benefit from the mining industry that is now developing in the country," he said.

He said he would call Hagedorn, a long-time friend, to talk him out of his plan, as well as give him a "friendly reminder" that it's the small-scale mining firms that destroy the environment.

"You can't just ban because the economy and the ordinary folks will not benefit from this. There has to be a balance. We should not be biased [against large-scale mining]," he said.

Hagedorn declared Tuesday that he would not approve any of the mining applications until his term ends in 2010, rejecting overtures by big mining firms to put up nickel ore mining operations in the city.

Nickel deposits are found on the western coast of the city.

Atienza said that any local government should ban any mining company if it's found to have violated standards, and not before it could operate.

"If there is a violation then they should be prevented from continuing. But those abiding by the rules should be supported," he said.

Hagedorn made the statement on the same day that Atienza met with executives of mining companies at the Manila Hotel, and declared that only projects cleared by communities and local governments would be allowed to operate.

Atienza praised Hagedorn for his "genuine commitment to protect the environment," but warned that it's the small-scale mining that destroys the environment.

"Generally, from our records, the problems arise mainly from small-scale mining operations where the businessmen are unable to put up sophisticated and extensive environmental protection equipment and facilities," he said.

It's the small-scale mining operations that are the subject of complaints from Church and nongovernment organizations.

The large-scale mining operators, on the other hand, were "more careful about protection of their environment in connection with the guidelines set forth by their own permits."

But Hagedorn said he was steadfast in his decision to ban mining.

"If the mining companies can show me a place with intact forest cover and where people have become wealthy and healthy after a massive mining operation, I might change my mind," Hagedorn told the INQUIRER.

"The ugly sight of the denuded forests of Sta. Lourdes and the mercury mine tailings that were dumped along Honda Bay only strengthens my resolve to oppose mining operations here in Puerto Princesa," he added.

Hagedorn said the recent conversion of Puerto Princesa City into a highly urbanized charter city allowed it to be administratively independent of the provincial government and gave it the power over mining applications.

DENR opens door to bid to nullify land titles

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEPARTment of Environment and Natural Resources has given due course to a petition from urban poor groups that seeks the nullification of land titles issued in the city since the 1920s.

Fact-finding teams sent out by the DENR general legal services have been studying land documents after four urban poor associations in Baguio convinced them that none of the lands sold to them in Baguio was alienable.

The neighborhood associations of Purok 8 Asin Road, Oshahan, Badangan and Chinacop Hill, and the national task force on house and resettlement of the party-list group Alagad cited a ruling made in 2000 by Judge Fernando Vil Pamintuan of the regional trial court here that revoked several Baguio titles because they legally form part of the general forest reservation.

Void titles

"Almost all of the city's lands have not been converted from forest lands so the titles that the government had issued are actually void," Cristobal Santiago, Alagad task force representative, said.

The petitioners acknowledged that their cause is a "long shot."

"It may sound absurd that petitioners are insistent [about pursuing this], despite their lack of status, to question [these] fraudulent titles on the basis that the subject lands are considered forest reserve ...," the groups said in their amended petition to the DENR.

Academic

Some Baguio lawyers and several DENR Cordillera officials said the groups' arguments may sound rational but are academic in nature because most of the titles they want recalled date back to 1922.

"You cannot negate 80 years worth of (pieces of) properties [bought or sold in good faith]," a government lawyer told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

The cities of Baguio and Olongapo are the only town site reservations in the country.

This means that all Baguio lands are auctioned off to bidders, who stake their claim by forwarding town site sales applications (TSAs).

But in an April 13 memorandum, Manuel Gerochi, DENR undersecretary for land management, ordered his agency's legal services to check the validity of the argument.

The team conducted its most recent investigation in July, according to official notices it sent last month.

No interest

But Santiago said only the groups showed up for the fact-finding inquiry. He said the groups did not want to antagonize landowners when they chose to pursue the petition.

He said the government has no recourse but to negate these titles. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

EDWIN BACASMAS

BATTLEGROUND
Children try to lead normal lives as they play games at an evacuation site in Barangay Sungkayot near a camp of the terror group Abu Sayyaf in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. These children are among hundreds of villagers who were forced to flee their homes to avoid getting caught in the crossfire as the Army pursues an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

₱64-M food terminal worth waiting for, says exec

KIDAPAWAN CITY—THE CITY'S P64-million public transport terminal, funded partly by loans from the Asian Development Bank, started operations Wednesday after five years of construction.

The terminal will serve as a drop-off point for agricultural products from other parts of the province, according to officials.

Mayor Rodolfo Gantuangco said "it was worth the wait."

"The transport terminal ... is an exemplary standard that can be compared to the transport terminals of the other major cities," he said during the inauguration ceremonies.

Gantuangco said the delay in the construction of the terminal, was caused by "necessary procedures that have to be followed."

He said they also have to buy the privately-owned 2.6 hectare land on, where the transport terminal was built on.

"We have to follow the auditing procedure and other major requirements set by the ADB like getting Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)," he said.

Gantuangco said the city government was later able to secure a P47.4-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines through the technical assistance of ADB's Mindanao Basic Urban Service Sector Project (MBUSSP).

"The MBUSSP has helped the Kidapawan LGU prepare the feasibility study on the overland terminal so it can get a loan from the LBP," said Herman Ongkiko, team leader of MBUSSP Norconsult.

The feasibility study showed that the construction of the Kidapawan City Integrated Terminal was socially acceptable to the community and economically viable, according to Ongkiko.

Its construction was later endorsed by the Department of Interior and Local Government. *Rolando Pinsoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

S. Mindanao workers get allowance hikes

DAVAO CITY—WORKERS IN Southern Mindanao will get an additional cost of living allowance (Cola) instead of an increase in their minimum wage.

The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board recently issued Wage Order No. 11-14, which granted an additional P10 Cola per day to minimum wage earners in the Davao Region.

The new wage order effectively increased the existing Cola from P16 to P26.

Ponciano Ligutom, director of the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) in Southern Mindanao, told reporters here on Wednesday that the wage board "unanimously agreed" to the new adjustment.

The board, which Ligutom also chairs, is composed of two representatives from the labor sector, two from the management sector and three from the government sector.

Labor unions have been asking the board to grant an average of P75 in additional pay to employees but the management sector has vigorously opposed it.

The P75 increase sought by moderate labor organizations was about half the wage increase proposed by militant groups.

Ligutom said it was the first time the wage board arrived at a unanimous decision.

Last year, labor representatives in the wage board expressed dissenting opinions against Wage Order No. 11-13, which mandated the P16 Cola for minimum wage earners.

Ligutom said the wage board will submit the new wage order to the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) for affirmation.

The additional Cola will take effect after the 15-day publication requirement.

Ligutom said the new wage order was granted based on the "safety net concept" and not on the living minimum wage of P224 per family in the Davao Region.

The "safety net concept," he explained, refers to a wage adjustment "most acceptable" to both employers and workers.

Merly Cruz, director of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for Southern Mindanao, said the DTI has yet to determine if the granting of the Cola would have an impact on the prices of goods and the regional economy. *Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pampanga quarry workers receive pay hike

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 178 quarry checkers and seven supervisors of the Pampanga provincial government are getting salary increases of P120 and P172 daily, respectively, as the administration of Gov. Eddie Panlilio reported collecting P36.6 million in sand taxes as of Aug. 21.

The salary grades of checkers, or field personnel who validate the authenticity of tax receipts, have been increased from 1 to 5, enabling them to get P352 in wages daily, provincial administrator Vivian Dabu said on Thursday.

Job hazards

Their supervisors get a salary grade of 7, entitling them to earn P403 daily.

Dabu said the pay increases came after the provincial board approved last week the supplemental budget proposed by Panlilio.

The governor sought the additional salary for quarry workers, citing the hazards of their job and their having to work longer hours.

Board Members Edna David and Ricardo Yabut of the environment committee supported the request after validating work conditions in the field.

Anti-corruption

Panlilio is seeking an incentive program for quarry workers to strengthen their resolve to resist corruption at work.

The capitol's quarry special committee, which is led by a team of four former seminarians, has been fast at detecting signs of irregularities, incident reports showed.

In July, it sued a man faking receipts in Mexico town. Also in July, the committee fired a quarry checker after an investigation showed he had been receiving money from a hauler who recycled the receipts in Floridablanca town.

Four quarry checkers were suspended for accepting bribes by allowing drivers to pass through checkpoints without showing any receipt.

Comparison

The P36.6 million in sand taxes represented 37 days of collections since July 2.

This surpassed the P35.2 million collected under former Gov. Mark Lapid in 2005, income reports showed.

Last Friday's preliminary meeting for a quarry summit scheduled this year clarified the process and requirements in securing quarry permits and plotted the actual quarry sites.

These are bids by the reorganized provincial mining regulatory board to stop illegal quarry operations, Dabu said.

She said the environmental aspects of quarrying should be strengthened to protect lives, communities and government structures like dikes and bridges. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

QUARRYING is gold in Pampanga. A truck is loaded with sand from dried lahar spilled by Mt. Pinatubo. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Barangay, youth polls set Oct. 29

TACLOBAN CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Elections said it's all systems go for the election of village and youth council officials nationwide on Oct. 29.

Lawyer Jose Nick Mendros, assistant elections officer for Eastern Visayas, said the Comelec already issued Resolution No. 8264 on Aug. 8 setting the guidelines for the holding of the elections.

The last elections for village officials and officials of youth councils known as Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) were held June 15, 2002.

Candidates, according to Mendros, have until Oct. 18 to file their candidacies. They have nine days to campaign.

"The campaign period is deemed sufficient …," said Mendros.

In Eastern Visayas, there are 4,391 barangays with a total 2.34 million registered voters for the barangay elections and 212,123 voters for the SK elections.

To be elected are chairs and eight councilors of barangays and chairs and eight councilors of SK.

An election period, during which there would be a gun and liquor ban, is to start Sept. 29 until Nov. 13.

A public works ban would cover projects in the village level.

Mendros said the exercise was supposed to be non-partisan.

Earlier, the Department of Interior and Local Government in Eastern Visayas reminded barangay officials who are on their third terms that they were no longer qualified to run.

Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

PASSING DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON
Mauban schoolchildren line up along the route of the funeral procession and wave their small flags as the horse-drawn hearse carrying the remains of Army 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Camelon passed by. Camelon was killed in action in Basilan.

ROUNDUP

Dengue cases swarm Laguna

SAN PABLO CITY—The provincial health office in Laguna reported 223 new dengue victims in August, or a 36-percent increase compared to the July figure.

As of this month, the total number of victims reported since January has increased to 846 from 623 in July, said Dr. Alfaneo Lagos, provincial health office chief.

Over the same period, the total number of dengue fatalities increased to 8, up by 2, from a total of 6 recorded in July.

The number of malaria victims in two villages in Laguna also increased by 44 in two weeks, or a total of 160 victims from 116 on Aug. 8.

Romulo Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon

NFA to probe rice racket

NATIONAL Food Authority administrator Jesus P. Navarro has ordered the investigation of reports NFA rice had been diverted to black markets in the Bicol Region.

In a statement, Navarro said he also suspended the operations of Bigasan ng Bayan outlets that were believed involved in the diversion of rice.

Navarro said he would revoke the licenses of outlets that would be found involved in the diversion.

He also ordered NFA employees involved in the scam to be investigated.

"To take advantage of the program deprives the poor of their right to affordable rice," Navarro said. The Bigasan ng Bayan is an exclusive NFA rice outlet that sells NFA rice at P18 per kg.

PMA exams scheduled

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Military Academy will conduct its annual entrance exams on Aug. 26 for the PMA Class of 2012.

The qualifying exams will be conducted in 27 examination centers nationwide.

Successful and qualified candidates will be provided with free college education and monthly stipend.

Application forms are free and available in the nearest military and police units.

Interested applicants can also apply through mail and online at http://www.pma.ph.

New DENR chief: Watch me

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said his critics are entitled to their opinion but they should watch him work.

"They should just watch me work, and they will be happy," he said during a visit here Wednesday.

Earlier, environment groups, such as Greenpeace, called Atienza's appointment "discouraging."

But Atienza said he will prove his critics wrong.

The former Manila mayor said he will institute few changes in the department but that he will make sure that environment laws are all implemented.

"We will sort out the system, such as the issuance of permits in logging for example. We know that the law is being abused," he said.

Atienza said it is not difficult to protect the environment because "the DENR has the most laws to cover its mandate, 43 laws in all."

"I plan to implement all these laws to the letter," he said. *Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Army continues mass grave search

DAVAO CITY—Soldiers, backed by forensic experts, unearthed on Aug. 13 the remains of two suspected victims of the communist purge here.

Col. Alex Ambal, commander of the 73rd Infantry Batallion, said the first grave was dug in Barangay Magtuod. It yielded the skeletal remains of a woman believed to be that of Delma Rubino.

Rubino, a member of the New People's Army's Dyango Command, was 16 years old when she disappeared with her boyfriend at the height of the communist purge in the 1980s.

In New Carmen Village, the remains of a "Ka Bert" was also exhumed from a shallow grave following help from tipsters, Ambal said.

He said the military was trying to locate "10 or more" graves belonging to rebels executed by their comrades on suspicion they were state agents. *Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

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AL FRESCO PRESSCON: President Arroyo takes questions from the media after she joined the soldiers' boodle fight during her visit with General Esperon (at right) to the 1st Marine Brigade headquarters in Tabiawan, Isabela City, on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA wants soldiers' combat pay increased

By Christine O. Avendaño

ZAMBOANGA CITY—TO honor the "heroism" and professionalism" shown by her soldiers in recent clashes with the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo is seeking an increase in their combat pay.

Ms Arroyo instructed officials to study the possibility of raising the combat pay of soldiers during a command conference here.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said that Ms Arroyo had instructed him and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. to coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management in making such a study.

P240 monthly since '80s

On top of other allowances, soldiers also get combat pay, now P240 a month. It was last increased in the early '80s, Esperon told reporters.

Esperon said that Ms Arroyo wanted the combat pay hike to happen soon and for officials to pay in advance those soldiers who participated in recent encounters against the ASG.

During the command conference, Ms Arroyo commended the soldiers and police for the successful operations against the ASG in Sulu and Basilan and for their "professionalism and heroism and the strength they have shown," according to Teodoro.

The President did more than praise her soldiers when she joined them in a "boodle fight" in barangay Tabiawan in Isabela, Basilan, where she went by helicopter.

Eating with bare hands

Using their bare hands, Ms Arroyo and her officials joined the 1st Marine Brigade in a feast of *curacha*—a local crab—rice and pancit.

The soldiers cheered the President when she later shook hands with them, according to Task Force Thunder chief, Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban.

"High morale *kayo*," Ms Arroyo repeatedly told her soldiers. "Thank you for fighting terrorism."

GMA flies to Basilan ...

From page A1

government to the peace process and the dialogues with concerned parties will continue, likewise we commend the strength of the peace process," Teodoro said.

Troops told to be vigilant

He said that the MILF and the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) had agreed to withdraw from the combat zones in order that the military could pursue the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Teodoro also said Ms Arroyo reminded the police and military to continue to be vigilant "to prevent or thwart attempts by those who want to derail the peace process and terrorists from exploiting the situation any further."

Ms Arroyo, who was present at the news conference with Teodoro, asked officials to clarify the situation of evacuees in Sulu and Basilan following the offensive, noting that the number of evacuees was not increasing.

"There have been all kinds of numbers coming out in the newspapers," Ms Arroyo said.

Making ASG 'negligible'

Dr. Anthony Golez, spokesperson for the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said that 5,007 families, or around 30,000 people, had evacuated their villages in Sulu and Basilan to escape the clashes.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf would make the bandits "negligible" in two months.

"We mean that the Abu Sayyaf cannot conduct any terror offensives anymore," Esperon told reporters hours after Ms Arroyo gave the order to continue the offensive.

The second phase will involve development efforts for the province, he said.

Right now, the military, which has 4,000 troops in Basilan, was after 58 Abu Sayyaf fighters who were being reinforced by lawless armed elements, Esperon said.

Major strike hinted

Esperon hinted that a major military strike was in the offing. "You just watch. In a little while, we will be hitting again," he told reporters.

He said the military was "ready to hit" the enemy as he noted that since the July 10 ambush of Marine troops in Al-Barka town that left 14 Marine troops dead, the military had put in a "large presence" of troops in Basilan and had since "prepositioned" its forces.

In Sulu, Esperon said that both the military and police were strictly enforcing the gun ban in the province and that areas have been designated where the MNLF could stay while the Abu Sayyaf was being pursued. These are barangay Marang in Indanan and barangay Tubig Puti in Luuk.

"Those outside these areas will be subject to interdiction operations," he said.

Out of shadow of death, emerged the nationalist

From page A1

test one's character and commitment to duty and purpose.

For how else can anyone describe the story of a man who dared tangle with the storm troopers of a foreign invader, speak the truth to a homegrown despot, and fearlessly cut the ties that bound his native land to a former occupier?

It all began simply in the village of Pulo, now known as San Miguel, in Pasig City, where he was born on June 22, 1920, the youngest of five sons to spouses Esteban Salonga and Bernardita Reyes.

Married in 1904, at the onset of American rule, Esteban and Bernardita were early converts to Protestantism. A Presbyterian minister who did not draw any salary, Salonga's father depended on the charity of his flock to provide for his family's needs. Salonga's mother, whom he describes as a "woman of great faith," would later sell produce at the village market to help earn a living.

Barefooted

"I can't recall any single event of my childhood years which stands out as the most memorable. But I do recall how poor we were," he writes in his memoir, "Journey of Struggle and Hope." "We often had *ayungin* (a small fish) for breakfast, ayungin for lunch and ayungin for dinner."

One memory he retains very well, however, was when his mother brought him to attend the first day of classes in the town's public elementary school.

"I was the only one barefoot," says Salonga. Six years later, he remained unshod in a class photo taken of the graduating class, which a classmate gave him while he was campaigning for a congressional seat in 1961. He kept this picture to remind him of the hard times he and his family went through early on in his life.

In time, particularly during the long summer breaks from school, Salonga and his siblings found ways to support their parents. Hard work, initiative, and perseverance became the first lessons that Salonga learned in his youth. He kept these lessons in mind and drew strength from in his later encounters with fate beyond the confines of Pulo.

Restlessness

His years in high school though were mark by episodes of restlessness. He admits to having fallen in with the "wrong company and began noticing girls" in his third year which led him to skip classes. Salonga later regained his focus with the help of an American teacher who taught English literature in his senior year.

At 16, Salonga began his pre-law studies at the Padre Faura campus of the University of the Philippines to realize his dream of becoming a lawyer and politician. He had chosen to become one when he was only 12 while watching, with his father and brothers, then House Speaker Manuel Roxas, of the Philippine Assembly, arguing for independence from America on a stage in Pasig.

"I was held spellbound by this man who spoke of our people's yearning for independence and freedom," he says of Roxas. "There was no public address system at that time, but his voice, his diction, his gestures, and his stage presence impressed me no end."

Salonga completed his pre-law course while working as a proofreader in the publishing company of his eldest brother. He entered the UP College of Law where he earned medals as a debater and student leader.

War breaks out

While preparing for the bar exams, Salonga underwent his first encounter with fate with the outbreak of war between the United States and Japan on Dec. 7, 1941. With the US retreat to Australia, the Japanese Imperial Army occupied Manila.

Appalled by Japanese military abuses and atrocities and wanting to boost the morale of his compatriots, he went underground and waged his own propaganda war against the new foreign overlords.

It did not take long before the Japanese, with the help of neighborhood Quislings, caught up with the 21-year-old freedom fighter. By this time, his barrio had become a stronghold of remnants of the anti-American Sakdal movement which became the core of the pro-Japanese Makapili.

In April, 1942, the Japanese kempetai captured Salonga and, in the presence of his father, tortured him into admitting his partisan activities.

"I thought I'd be sentenced to a severe penalty but the Japanese interpreter, who was familiar to me, because I used to see him in the University of the Philippines, must have told the tribunal composed of high-ranking Japanese something that moved them and made them decide that due to extreme youth, I should be sentenced only to 15 years of hard labor instead of the death penalty, which I expected," he recalls in an interview.

Salonga was subsequently imprisoned at Fort Bonifacio and at the Manila City Jail, in San Marcelino, before being transferred to the Muntinlupa prison where he stayed until his release on Feb. 11, 1943. He was among those pardoned by the Japanese on the occasion of Kigen Setsu, Japan's Foundation Day.

LIKE A HERO in a Greek epic as Salonga continues his journey of 87 years so far.

Bar topnotcher

Placed under surveillance by the kempetai, Salonga focused on studying for the bar exams in August 1944 which he topped with Jose W. Diokno, with a grade of 95.3 percent.

By the time independence was granted to the Philippines by the United States on July 4, 1946, Salonga had began the practice of law. But this was interrupted by his acceptance to graduate studies at Harvard Law School, and later on, his pursuit of a doctorate at Yale Law School. There he met Jose "Teroy" Laurel, son of wartime President Jose P. Laurel, who later became his law partner upon their return to the Philippines.

In America, Salonga married Lydia Busuego a few months before his graduation from Harvard in July 1948. She returned to the Philippines earlier and gave birth to their first-born, Esteban Fernando.

Soon after his return to Manila in 1948, Salonga would get his first taste of politics by helping the candidacy of Jose P. Laurel against the incumbent Elpidio Quirino during the 1949 presidential elections. Quirino's victory was contested by Laurel who eventually accepted defeat rather than risk a bloody uprising by his angry followers.

Elitist politics

At 33, Salonga himself learned the hard way how politics was being played by the dynastic elite. A modus vivendi between erstwhile rival political clans in Rizal led to his exclusion from the race for the seat vacated by his brother, Isayas, who had not pursued reelection for the second congressional district because of ill health.

In 1961, he would get a chance to run again for the position that had been denied him. This time, the alliance of convenience between the rival political clans had broken up. Under the Liberal Party banner, Salonga won by a convincing margin over his established opponents. His time had come.

Salonga was drafted to run by the LP for the Senate in the 1965 elections with incumbent President Diosdado Macapagal of the LP facing the erstwhile partymate, now Nacionalista convert, Ferdinand Marcos.

With pre-election surveys showing him a distant 15th, Salonga got the surprise of his life by topping the race for the eight Senate seats at stake. Marcos beat Macapagal.

Salonga ran for reelection and made it once more to the Senate in 1971, only after surviving the deadly bombing of the LP *miting de avance* at Plaza Miranda which rendered him almost incapacitated.

Greater dangers lay ahead.

Martial law

On Sept. 21, 1972, Marcos declared martial law, closed down Congress, and began his authoritarian rule which would last until his ouster 14 years later by a civilian-backed military uprising led by his closest lieutenants and the wife of his murdered arch rival, Benigno Aquino Jr.

Salonga spent the martial law years in active opposition to Marcos but was jailed for four years on accusations of leading a bombing campaign against the dictatorship. Released in 1980, he was granted a medical pass for treatment of wounds in the US, which he had suffered during the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing.

Returning in 1985, two years after the assassination of Aquino, Salonga became part of the expanding opposition movement that eventually forced Marcos to call for a snap presidential election in 1986.

Asked why he had persisted in his struggle against Marcos, he replied: "You see I'm affected by, probably by the religion I have, my father was a Presbyterian minister, and I grew up in poverty ... and this probably colored my thinking. When I see injustice being committed against the poor, against the marginalized, I react immediately," he explains in an interview.

After the fall of Marcos, Salonga became the first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) which was tasked by President Corazon Aquino to recover the billions of pesos plundered by the Marcoses and their cronies in the heyday of their strongman regime.

Greatest challenge

He was drafted again to run for the Senate in the 1987 elections which the administration ticket won 22-2, with Salonga topping the race anew.

As Senate President, he faced up to the greatest challenge of his life by casting the vote ending the special military relationship between the Philippines and the United States in Sept. 16, 1991.

Explaining to a packed hall his vote against extending the stay of US military bases in the country, Salonga's last words were: "I have been warned by well-meaning friends that my stand on this treaty may hurt my chances of becoming President. No matter. That is an insignificant consequence. In times of great crisis, our martyrs and heroes offered their lives that our people might become truly free.

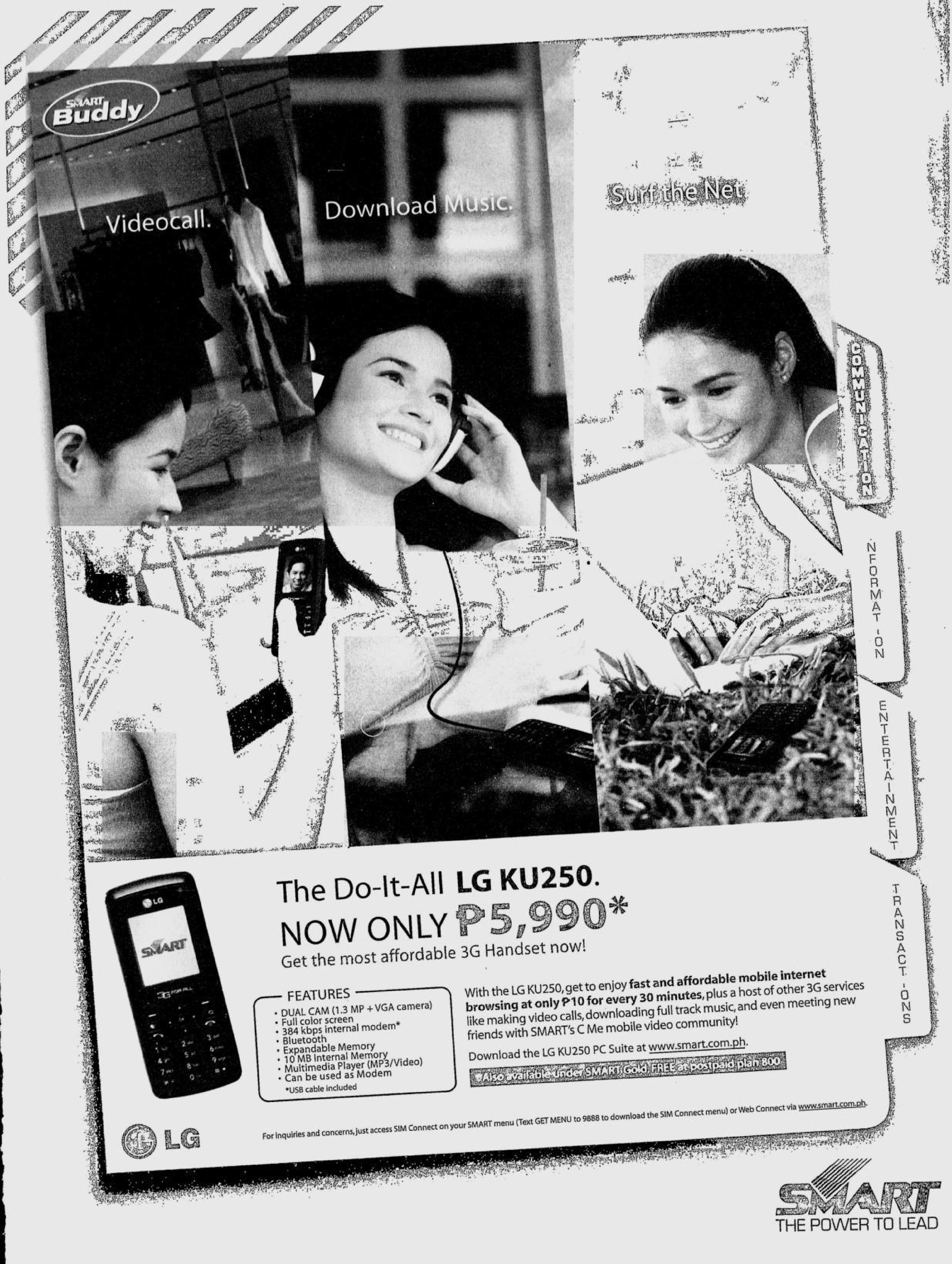
"I have said it before and I will say it again. After walking through the valley of the shadow of death twice in my life, titles and positions do not mean that much to me anymore. What is more important is to be of real service to our people, with or without any position in government."

Daily struggle

After his term ended in 1992, Salonga founded the civil society groups Kilosbayan and Katarungan which have led the opposition to manifest attempts to reverse the nationalist, democratic gains of 1986.

For as Salonga points out: "Independence, like freedom, is never granted, it is always asserted and affirmed. Its defense is an everyday endeavor—sometimes in the field of battle, oftentimes in the contest of conflicting wills and ideas. It is a daily struggle that may never end—for as long as we live."

At age 87, Salonga has yet to write finis to his own epic. There is no doubt however that there will be more than enough people who shall willingly carry on his struggle to realize peace and prosperity for his people and nation.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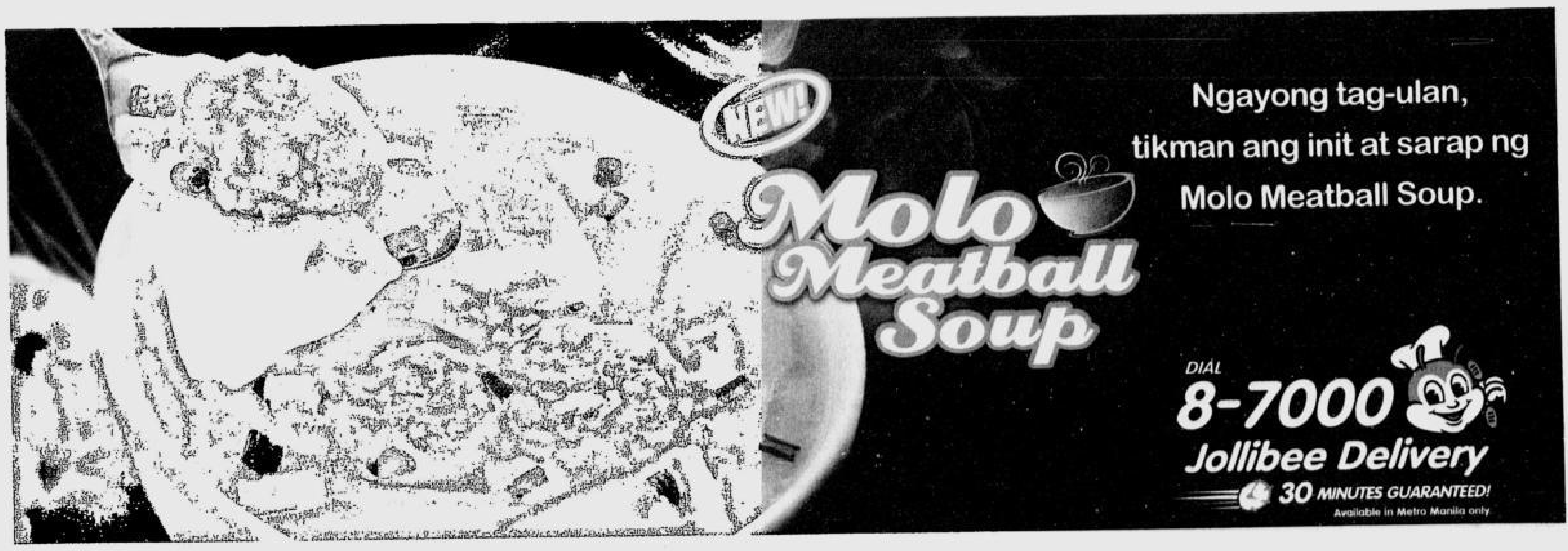
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(RE)GREENING OF ARROCEROS
Members of the environmental group Winner Foundation plant a tree at the Pasig River side of reopened Arroceros Forest Park in Manila in an attempt to revive the city's "last lung." RYAN LIM

Student dies after fall from condo

Probers search for clues; family mum

By Tina G. Santos

A 19-YEAR-OLD STUDENT OF THE DE LA SALLE University (DLSU) died after he fell from the 18th floor of a condominium building in Manila late Wednesday afternoon.

SPO4 Danny Vidad of the Manila Police District homicide division identified the victim as Wilfredo Tonogbanua, a business management student of DLSU and resident of Kassel Condominium on Taft Avenue corner P. Ocampo Street, Malate.

The victim sustained fractured bones and skull and severe contusions in different parts of the body, police said.

According to a police investigation, the incident took place around 6 p.m.

Quoting building security guards, police said a loud thud came from outside.

The guards who checked where the noise came from, saw instead the bloodied body of the victim sprawled on the concrete pavement. Since the body was partially burnt, police theorized the victim could have hit high-tension electrical wires before falling to the ground.

That would explain the power failure before the victim's body was discovered, police said. Police said the family of the victim refused to talk to investigators.

In a separate incident, four students were seriously injured after a pillbox allegedly hurled by members of a street gang exploded inside their car Wednesday night in Manila.

The victims were identified as Angelo Divino, 22; Marc Jacoy, 22 and Kathleen Pundaodaya, 19, all students of Perpetual Help University; and Jay Christopher Balmosa, 23, of the University of the East.

Police said the victims were on board a car and were traveling along Laong Laan Street when they found themselves in the middle of a fight between two groups of teenagers. One group apparently threw a pillbox that hit the car, police said.

The explosion occurred despite checkpoints and tight security measures in Metro Manila to prevent attacks by allies of the Abu Sayyaf group.

MMDA to appeal ruling vs closure of bus terminals

By DJ Yap

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) will appeal the Supreme Court ruling barring it from enforcing a presidential directive closing down bus terminals along main thoroughfares.

In a reversal of its original position, the agency said yesterday it would ask the high tribunal to reconsider its Aug. 15 ruling nullifying Executive Order 179 directing the MMDA to implement the Greater Manila Transport System project.

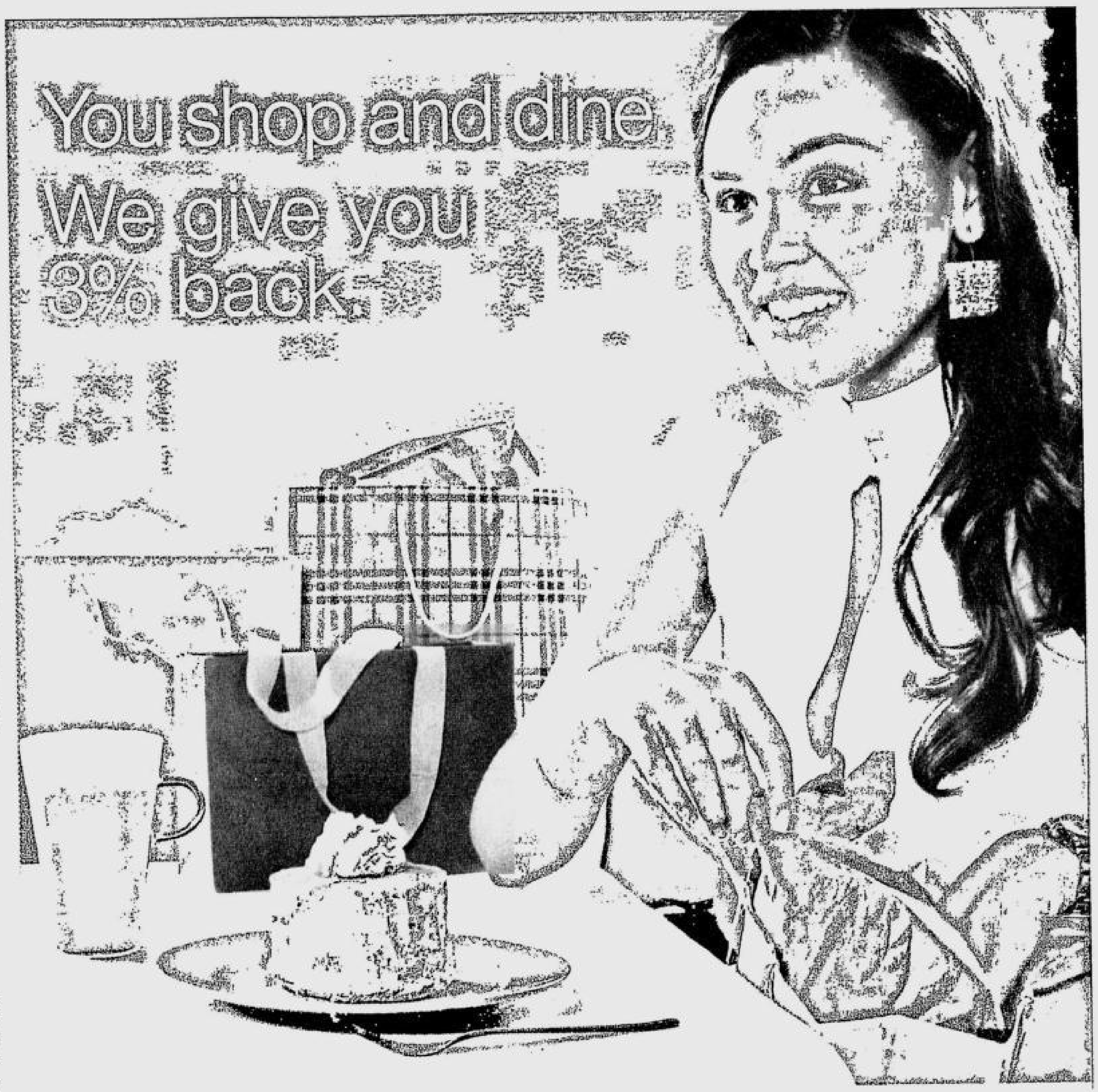
The order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003 authorized the agency to shut down bus terminals to pave the way for the establishment of mass transport terminals and to help ease Metro traffic. Earlier, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said he was not aware that there was a directive from the President to close down bus terminals. He said the plan to set up centralized bus terminals was not aimed at phasing out existing ones on major roads.

But in a statement yesterday, MMDA chief legal counsel Emmanuel de Castro acknowledged the existence of the directive as he said they would seek a reversal of the SC ruling.

De Castro said the Supreme Court might have overlooked provisions of Republic Act 7924, which partly amended and superseded the Public Service Act. The law gave the MMDA authority over transport and traffic management.

DID YOU KNOW

WITH THE RECENT conversion of San Juan and Navotas into highly urbanized cities, Pateros is now the only municipality in the National Capital Region. Apart from San Juan and Navotas, there are 14 cities in Metro Manila. ***Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research***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METROBRIEFS

Robbers' targets in QC

THE QUEZON City Police District has identified at least seven areas thriving with robbery groups preying on pedestrians and commuters. QCPD spokesperson Supt. Asprinio Cabula said robbery incidents occur most often in Araneta Avenue, Quezon Ave., Magsaysay Ave., Aurora Boulevard, Commonwealth Ave., E. Rodriguez Ave. and Tandang Sora Ave. The newly created Task Force Safe Boulevard, composed of secret marshals and police teams from different police stations, is expected to reduce the incidence of such cases in these areas.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Navotas green drive

THE NAVOTAS City government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines National Capital Region Command (NCRCOM) yesterday teamed up to promote the locality as a green zone. NCRCOM commander Major Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino and Mayor Tobias Tiangco led the launching rites at City Hall. Members of the 202nd Naval Reserve Squadron and the 204th Naval Reserve Group of the Marine Corps have been tapped to lead the city's green campaign.

Jeannette I. Andrade

No role models

TWO MANDALUYONG City policemen, Joselito Papa Jr. and Ferdinand Fernandez, are facing jail time and dismissal from service after they were arrested for petty crimes in two separate incidents in the city. Hold-up and robbery charges will be filed against Papa, police said. Fernandez was apprehended for allegedly threatening his neighbors and using his gun on them.

Kristine L. Alave

Lim promises 50-year lease to Museo Pambata

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILANS OF ALL AGES WERE assured of a more "wholesome" form of entertainment on Roxas Boulevard for at least 50 years more after Mayor Alfredo Lim promised yesterday a new five-decade lease for the Museo Pambata, the country's first interactive museum for children.

Lim, who recently dismantled Baywalk's bars and restaurants, told a cheering audience, "How long do you want the Museo Pambata extended? I leave it up to you to decide how long you want to stay here … I'll sign it with eyes closed." But when Museo president Nina Lim-Yuson replied she wanted it "forever," the mayor laughed and said since he could not put "forever" in the contract, he would write down 50 years instead.

"In essence that is perpetual already. I will not be here for 50 years more," the 77-year-old mayor said with a big smile.

It was in 1993, during his previous term as mayor, when Lim allowed the historic Elks building to be converted into the pioneering children's museum.

Now 13 years old, Museo Pambata has entertained almost three million visitors through its seven "hands-on" theme rooms, a departure from the usual "hands-off" policy of most museums.

At the blessing of the Museo's new annex building yesterday, Yuson called Lim one of their heroes, thanking him for his continued support. The three-story structure would house the administrative offices and the children's library and resource center.

It was built with the support of the City of Manila, the C Com Foundation in Singapore, and the Leandro V. Locsin Partners.

Cabbies get legal aid vs abusive passengers

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is offering legal assistance to taxi drivers who become victims of abusive passengers.

The offer was made following a case involving former basketball star Paul "Bong" Alvarez.

The former Philippine Basketball Association player is facing physical injury charges for allegedly attacking two people. One of the complainants is taxi driver Wilfredo Cabanlit.

ABS-CBN television reporter Gretchen Malalad also charged Alvarez for allegedly attacking her while she was trying to interview Cabanlit.

LTFRB chair Thompson Lantion said drivers who would be abused could ask their operators to alert the agency if they wanted to file cases in court.

"Our agency has always been open to giving legal advice when they are involved in accidents. But not many drivers know that they can also seek assistance against abusive passengers," he said.

Lantion said that while the agency did not tolerate such drivers, it would help cabbies victimized by passengers.

"The lives of taxi drivers are always at stake while on the job," he said. "They ferry strangers who may not have good intentions. It is only fair that we help them ."

'MJ's son may be deported'

By DJ Yap

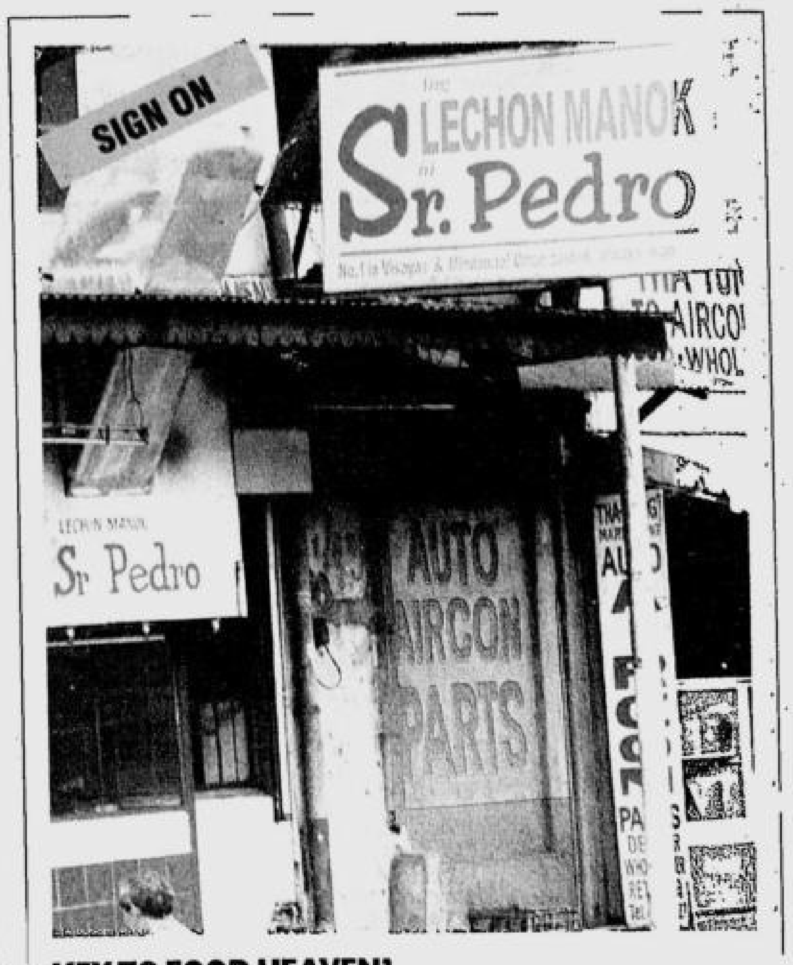
THE SON OF FORMER MANILA REP. Mark Jimenez could be deported to the United States and disbarred for meddling in Jimenez's legal dispute with his estranged partner Carol Castañeda-Jimenez.

But Virgilio Crespo said Frank Chavez, a former solicitor general, did not have his facts straight, saying he was a Filipino citizen though he practiced law under the American bar.

Chavez's comments about Crespo were made yesterday in reaction to Jimenez's son's statement that his stepmother was thinking of seeking the disbarment of the former solicitor general and his colleagues in the Chavez, Miranda and Aseoche law office.

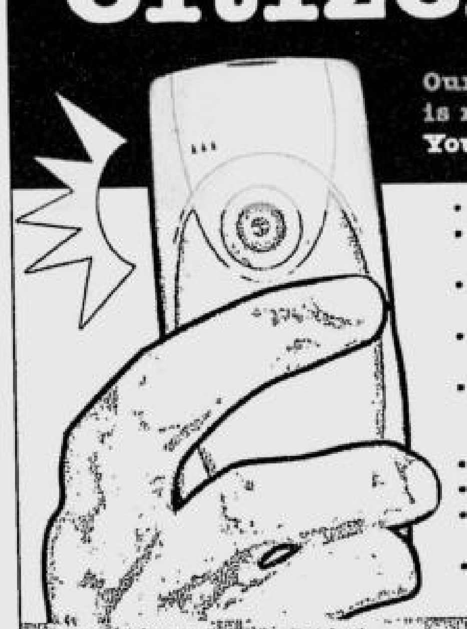
"He does not know what he is talking about. If there is anybody who should be disbarred, it is he," Chavez told the INQUIRER. He added that deportation proceedings against Crespo were already in the works, though it would be up to Jimenez to pursue them.

The lawyer said Crespo should be deported for "meddling in court cases where he's not a party." Chavez also accused Crespo of ethical violations, which, he said, could be grounds for disbarment.



KEY TO FOOD HEAVEN?
Sign of a roast chicken outlet in Kamuning, Quezon City.

JOAN BONDOC



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Filmaker, Alchemy of Vision and Lights Productions

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Mr. Alritz Lucero
Deejay/Account Executive
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Mr. Rikki Enriquez
Director of Student Affairs/
Advertising Professor
Ateneo de Davao

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Students
Ateneo de Davao University

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BCDA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

Republic of the Philippines

DAMPE SERVICE AREA OF THE SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested oil companies to participate in the resumption of the bidding for the privatization and development of the approximately 4.214 hectares Dampe Service Area of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (Sta. 21+730 Subic-bound).

Interested oil companies should submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and must purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the disposition that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable the oil company to participate in the bidding for the privatization.

The TOR for the disposition will be ready for distribution to interested proponents from 28 August to 07 September 2007 at the BCDA Corporate Center. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php 20,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested oil companies is tentatively set on 07 September 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center. The objective of the conference is to discuss the Property, the TOR, and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St.
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Email Address: blandal@bcda.gov.ph or hamonroyo@bcda.gov.ph

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal or Mr. Hoomer A. Monroyo at telephone numbers 816-6666 loc. 125 and 816-1043.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—Aug. 24, 2007)

Bush reverses self, now says Iraqi PM 'a good guy'

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI—US President George W. Bush, scrambling to show he still backs embattled Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, offered him a fresh endorsement, calling him "a good guy, good man with a difficult job."

"I support him," Bush said Wednesday, a day after he acknowledged frustration with the Iraqi leader's inability to bridge political divisions in his country. "It's not up to the politicians in Washington, D.C., to say whether he will remain in his position. It is up to the Iraqi people who now live in a democracy and not a dictatorship."

Bush's validation of Al-Maliki, inserted at the last minute into his speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention on Wednesday, stole the spotlight from Bush's attempt to buttress support for the war by likening today's fight against extremism to past conflicts in Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

Bush's speech—and another one like it next Tuesday—are intended to set the stage for a crucial report next month on the progress of the fighting and steps toward political reconciliation in Iraq. Democrats in the US Congress and some Republicans are pressing to start the withdrawal of US forces.

On Thursday, US intelligence agencies will issue a new assessment expressing doubt that Al-Maliki's government can overcome sectarian divisions or meet benchmarks toward achieving political unity, The New York Times reported on its website Wednesday night. The report cited unidentified officials.

BUSH AFP

Arguing that the buildup of US forces was showing results, Bush said, "Our troops are seeing this progress that is being made on the ground. And as they take the initiative from the enemy, they have a question: 'Will their elected leaders in Washington pull the rug out from under them just as they're gaining momentum and changing the dynamic on the ground in Iraq?'"

Comparing Iraq with earlier wars, Bush said, "The question now before us comes down to this: 'Will today's generation of Americans resist the deceptive allure of retreat and do in the Middle East what veterans in this room did in Asia?'"

Bush had appeared on Tuesday to be distancing himself from the Iraqi leader when he said at a North American summit in Canada: "Clearly, the Iraqi government's got to do more." The White House denied Bush was backing away from Al-Maliki, but it was lukewarm validation compared with Bush calling Al-Maliki "the right guy for Iraq" last November in Jordan.

Al-Maliki, on a trip to Syria, sharply rejected the US criticism. He said no one has the right to impose timetables on his elected government, and that Iraq can "find friends elsewhere." Without naming any American official, Al-Maliki said some criticism of him and his government in recent days had been "discourteous."

On Monday, Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, urged Iraq's Parliament to oust Al-Maliki and replace his government with a more unifying one. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the 2008 Democratic presidential front-runner, echoed Levin's call on Wednesday. Clinton said Iraqis should find a "less divisive and more unifying figure."

Iraq is so divided along sectarian and ethnic lines, however, that there is doubt as to whether any other politician could do a better job. *AP*

Out-of-body experiences not so outlandish

CHICAGO—PEOPLE WHO CLAIM to have had out-of-body experiences may not be kooky or high, just a little discombobulated, according to a study released Thursday suggesting that such events can be explained scientifically.

The suggestion comes from a group of neuroscientists who were able to manipulate a group of perfectly healthy volunteers into thinking they had moved outside their physical bodies by distorting their perception of reality.

Using virtual reality goggles to mix up the sensory signals reaching the brain, they induced the volunteers into projecting their awareness into a virtual body.

The illusion was so strong that the volunteers reacted with a palpable sense of fear when their virtual selves were threatened with physical force.

The findings suggest there may be a scientific explanation for these types of out-of-body experiences, which are often thought of as delusional or paranormal.

"Brain dysfunctions that interfere with interpreting sensory signals may be responsible for some clinical cases of out-of-body experiences," said Henrik Ehrsson, a neuroscientist formerly of University College London, and now at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

"Though, whether all out-of-body experiences arise from the same causes is still an open question," he added.

About one in 10 people claim to have had an experience in which they are awake and viewing their own body from a location outside their physical selves.

The phenomenon has been associated with traumatic experiences such as car accidents and linked to compromised brain function in epileptics, drug addicts and stroke victims, but scientists have never been able to determine what is actually going on.

The finding that you can induce a person to project themselves into a virtual world has interesting implications, Ehrsson said. *AFP*

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to submit proposals for the privatization and development of the 1.2-hectare Expanded Big Delta Lots located in the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the privatization and development of the property that outlines, among others, the requirements, procedures, methodology and criteria for evaluation and selection of proposals.

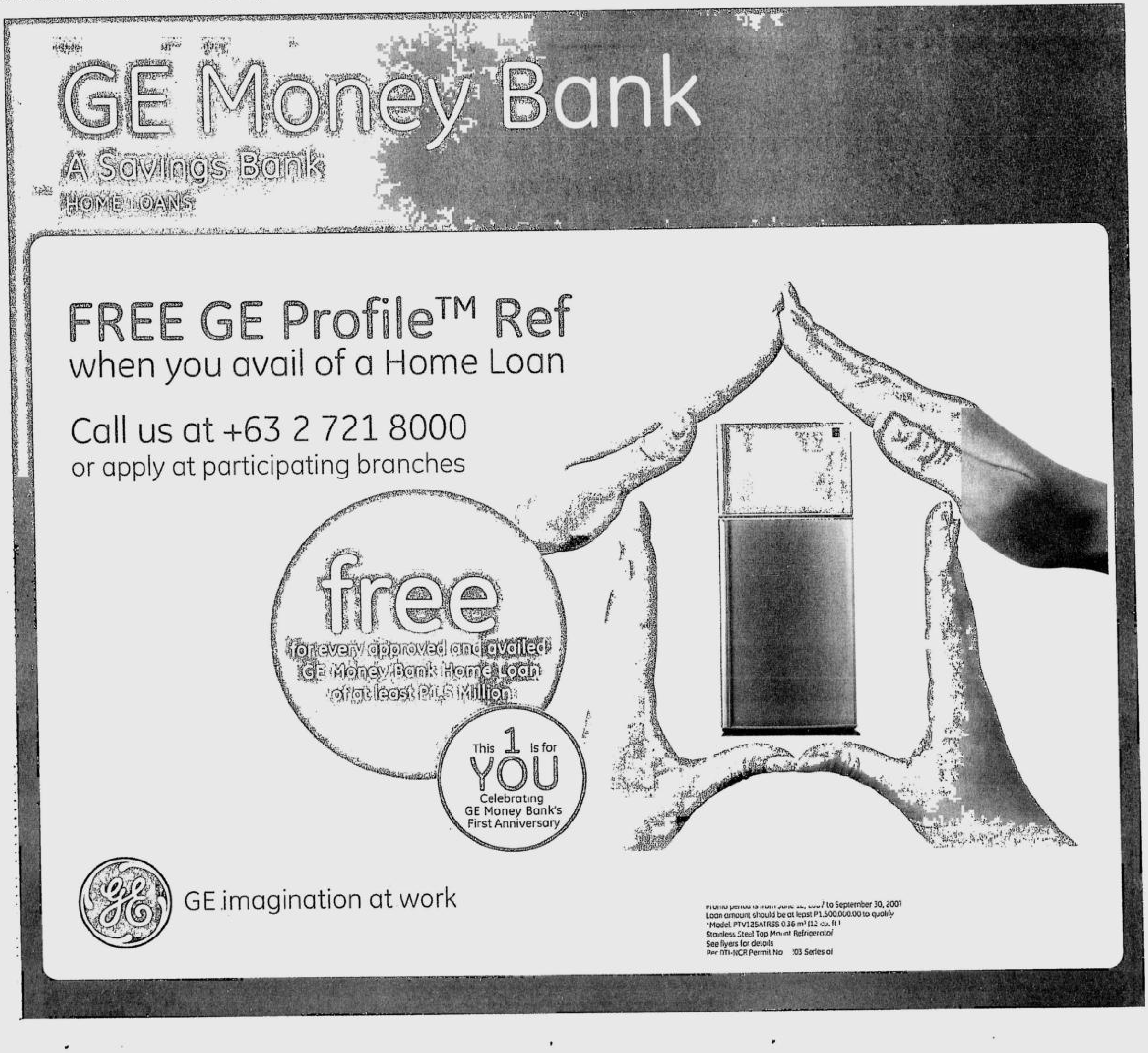
The TOR shall be made available to the interested proponents starting August 28, 2007 at a non-refundable cost of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00), payable to BCDA in cash or manager's check.

A Pre-bid Conference among interested proponents shall be held on September 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m., at the BCDA Operations Conference Room, BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor Bonifacio Technology Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. The objective of the Pre-bid conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by interested proponents.

Interested proponents may direct their inquiries to Ms. Aileen An. R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 816-6666 loc 110 or 124 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or blandal@bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, ADP-3 Committee

(PDI—Aug. 24, 2007)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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Rare street protests jolt Burma junta

BANGKOK—RARE PROTESTS AGAINST A MASSIVE hike in fuel prices have alarmed the ruling junta of Burma (also known as Myanmar), recalling the early days of a 1988 uprising that toppled the previous military regime, analysts said.

Reports of the street marches, with protesters defying stiff warnings from the junta to rally three times within a week, have made headlines around the world, shining a spotlight on the generals' secretive regime.

"They are always worried they are sitting on a chair and that this chair is shaking," said Burma analyst Aung Naing Oo.

"They should be worried, because what we are seeing is a similar event to the precursor to the '88 uprising," he said.

Angered by fuel price rise that doubled transport costs overnight, about 500 people joined a first march Sunday led by the pro-democracy 88 Generation Students group on the northern outskirts of Rangoon (Yangon).

At least 13 leaders of that march were arrested in overnight police raids Tuesday, but it failed to stop another 150 people staging a new march the next day.

That was followed by another rally Thursday, when about 40 people took to the streets before all were hauled away by security forces.

The government rarely admits to arrests of political prisoners, but in an unusual move state media ran detailed reports about the detentions just hours later.

Analysts agree it is too soon to say if this week's protests will snowball into anything bigger, but clearly the junta has been set on edge.

"They are worried, that's why they made an announcement in the newspaper," said Burma analyst Win Min. "They are worried it will lead to a bigger demonstration like in '88. They are paranoid."

The 88 Generation Students group is made up of people who led the earlier uprising, which also gave rise to Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy party. She has spent most of the last 17 years under house arrest.

The 1988 unrest began in protest against the skyrocketing cost of living, but later took on political overtones with demands for an end to the military dictatorship of the day.AFP

DEMONSTRATORS march to protest against a massive hike in fuel prices in Rangoon on Aug. 23, recalling the early days of a 1988 uprising that toppled the previous military regime. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Georgia says Russia violated airspace anew

TBILISI—Georgia on Wednesday accused Russian military jets of violating its airspace for a second time this month, but Russia said its aircraft had been nowhere near Georgian frontiers. Georgia made the allegation two weeks after it had accused a Russian jet of dropping a missile in a farmer's field 65 km from Tbilisi, an incident that worsened already tense relations between the ex-Soviet neighbors.

Reuters

Bangladesh government imposes curfew

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Shattering the calm of seven months of army-backed rule, violent clashes between students and the police led the government to impose an indefinite curfew on Wednesday night in six of the country's largest cities, in a return of the political instability that prompted a caretaker government to take power in January. The leader of the caretaker government, Fakhruddin Ahmed, said Wednesday in a televised address that the administration was compelled to impose an indefinite curfew and shut colleges and universities across the country to "protect public life and property as well as stop illegal activities." Mobile phone networks were also closed down.

NYT

'Chemical Ali threw my sons from chopper'

ALI Hassan al-Majid AP

BAGHDAD—A witness on Thursday accused "Chemical Ali," Saddam Hussein's most notorious hatchet man, of killing her sons by throwing them out of a helicopter during the crushing of an Iraqi Shiite rebellion. The mother, giving testimony in the trial of 15 Saddam aides accused of crimes against humanity over the brutal repression of the 1991 rebellion in southern Iraq, vented her fury against Ali Hassan al-Majid, widely known as "Chemical Ali." The witness was the sixth to take the stand against the 15 defendants whom prosecutors allege oversaw the killing of up to 100,000 Shiites as Saddam's troops turned on them after their defeat at the hands of the US-led coalition forces in Kuwait in the first Gulf War.

AFP

Israel to buy advanced Patriot missiles

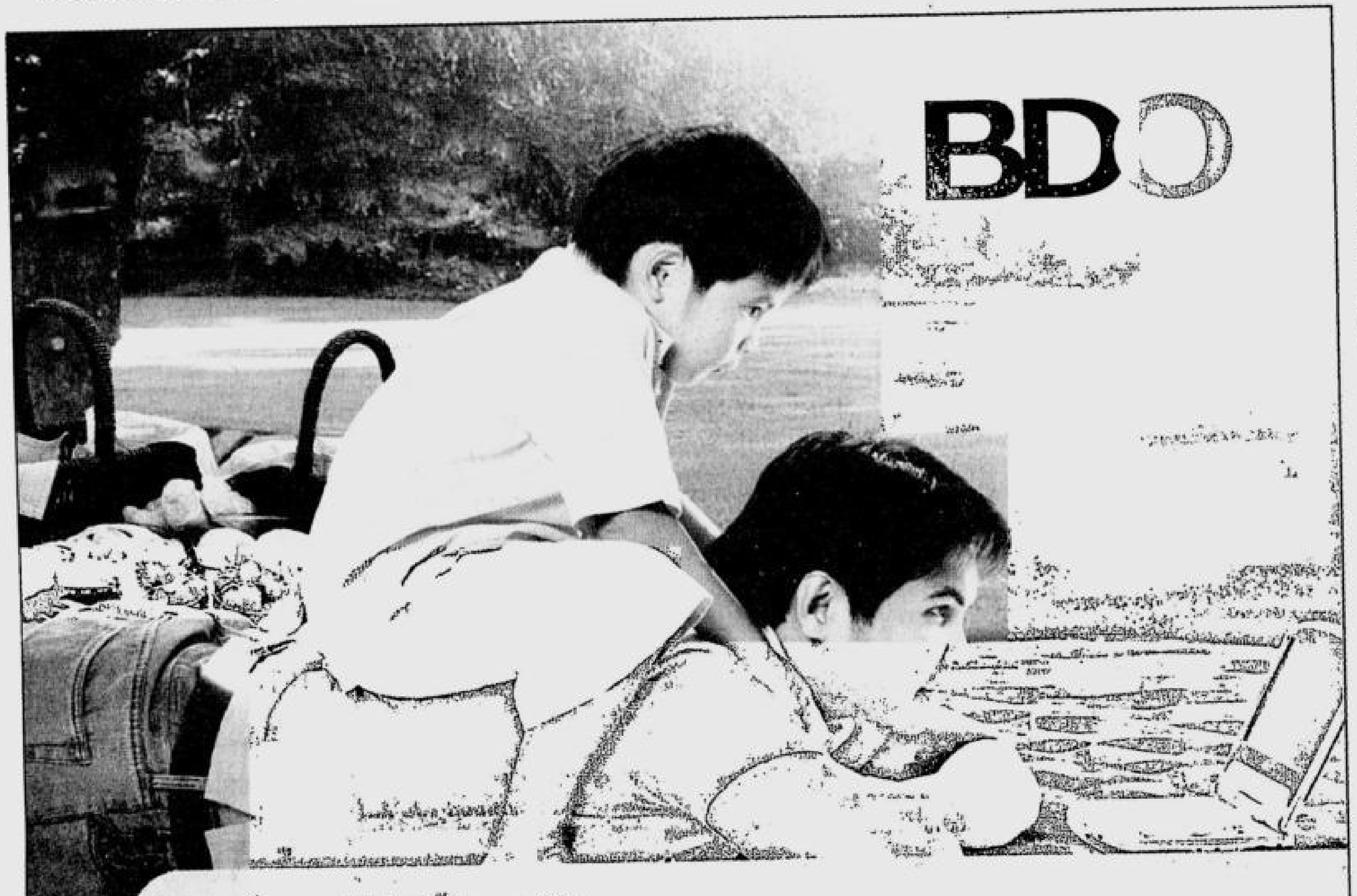
JERUSALEM—The Israeli Air Force is to buy advanced US-made missiles, capable of intercepting aircraft and long-range ballistic missiles, to upgrade the current air defense system, a report said on Thursday. The Patriot PAC-3 missiles, which will replace the PAC-2 currently in use, is capable of intercepting missiles possessed by foe Syria, the Ynet news website said, citing unnamed sources.

AFP

France seeks an active role in Iraq

PARIS—After years of shunning involvement in a war it said was wrong, France now believes that it may hold the key to peace in Iraq, proposing itself as an "honest broker" between the Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish factions there. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said the time had come for France, and Europe, to play a greater role in Iraq. "I believe this is the moment. Everyone knows the Americans will not be able to get this country out of difficulty alone," Kouchner he said. The shift was one of the most concrete signs yet of the thaw in French-American relations after the election in May of President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose administration no longer feels bound by the refusal to play a role in Iraq.

NYT



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SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2.7 V6

A combination of refined on-road handling and rugged off-road performance
In 2006, the Suzuki Grand Vitara was reborn, ushering in a new generation of Suzuki vehicles built to satisfy the needs of people who live active lifestyles. Its complete transformation leads the Suzuki brand to new levels of refinement and style at a value-packed price. For 2007, the Suzuki Grand Vitara is sure to impress on challenging off-road trails and drives around town, with a powerful 2.7-liter, V6 engine, advanced chassis design and available four-wheel drive, an extensive list of safety features and interior amenities and sleek styling – inside and out.

Standard DOHC V6 Power and Available Four-Wheel-Drive Traction
The standard 2.7-liter, V6, 24-valve DOHC engine delivers 185 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 250 Nm at 4,500 rpm. The engine gives the Grand Vitara a tow rating of 3,000 pounds – enough to haul light recreational boats, personal watercraft or motorcycles – ideally, Suzuki motorcycles. The Grand Vitara is fitted with an electronically controlled five-speed automatic transmission. Very capable off-road, it is equipped with an excellent approach, break-over and departure angles, and 7.9 inches of ground clearance, (7.4 inches for rear-wheel-drive models).

The Grand Vitara also offers a sophisticated available Four-Mode full-time four-wheel-drive system with two-speed transfer case. On the road, drivers have the security of full-time four-wheel drive, and when traveling off-road, drivers can use an interior-mounted switch to engage the center differential lock. If the going is really slow, the driver can select the Low (4L Lock) mode for low-speed power and traction.

Advanced Structural Engineering and Chassis Design
All Grand Vitara models feature a new, lightweight yet rigid unibody construction enhanced with a built-in ladder frame to offer the best of both worlds – a refined on-road ride and the rugged off-road performance expected from Suzuki SUVs. The structure is teamed with four-wheel independent suspension – MacPherson struts in front and a multi-link design in the rear – to provide precise handling both on-road and off-road. The Grand Vitara also features large, vented front disc brakes and rear drum brakes and power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering.

Uncompromised Safety Features
Every Grand Vitara model is fitted with active safety features, including ABS with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD) and Electronic Stability Program (ESP)1, including traction control. The ESP uses a variety of electronic sensors to measure vehicle speed, steering wheel angle and yaw. This information is sent to a central controller that can intervene as needed. Under certain conditions, such as when unintended oversteer or understeer is detected, the system can apply individual brakes and reduce engine torque to help the driver maintain the proper cornering line. Together with the traction control system, the ESP helps ensure vehicle stability and optimum cornering, handling in take off or acceleration, emergency maneuvers, or driving on slippery road surfaces.

The Grand Vitara also features six airbags as standard equipment – driver and front passenger seat-mounted side-impact airbags supplemental restraint system (SRS), advanced dual-stage front airbag SRS, advanced weight-sensing front passenger airbag SRS and front and rear side-curtain airbags.

The three-point driver and front passenger seat belts feature shoulder height adjustment. In the rear seat, each passenger is provided with a three-point seat belt system and a headrest. The rear child-seat LATCH system (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children), along with rear-door child safety locks, are designed to help protect young rear-seat passengers. The innovative stamped steel unibody with built-in ladder frame provides comprehensive protection, with features such as a reinforced cabin with the added safety of a head-impact protection padding and front and rear side-impact door beams designed to help maintain the integrity of the passenger compartment.

In the event of a collision with a pedestrian, the hood is designed to absorb some of the impact and help protect against serious head injuries. The front end and the bumper use energy-absorbing materials to help reduce the possibility of serious leg injuries.

Sleek Sophistication Meets Versatile Functionality
The Grand Vitara offers ample interior space for driver and passenger comfort and 24.4 cubic feet of storage space with the seats up or 68.9 cubic feet of storage space when the convenient 60/40 split seatbacks are folded forward. With its carefully engineered control layout and close attention to materials and fit-and-finish, the interior of the Suzuki Grand Vitara is functional and attractive. The list of standard features includes air conditioning with automatic climate control and micron air-filtration system, cruise control, digital clock with outside temperature, fuel consumption indicator and adjustable center armrest with internal storage. The Grand Vitara also features a standard AM/FM/CD/MP3 -capable audio system, and steering-wheel-mounted audio controls, and an available six-disc in-dash CD changer with six speakers, including two tweeters and a subwoofer.

For more information, visit www.suzuki.com.ph.

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WHAT'S INSIDE
Aborting NCAA cage season a Mancom option /A26

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US quintet shows might; Brazil turns back Canada in OT /A28

Out-of-sync UE Warriors scramble past Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

AT THEIR WORST, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE East Warriors still managed to come out on top.

The unbeaten Warriors survived a season-high 27 turnovers and escaped with a 70-66 decision over the National U Bulldogs in the UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pari Llagas and Marcy Arellano combined in the last 21 seconds as the Warriors staved off a Bulldogs' rally to clinch their 10th straight victory.

"NU played well, we played lousy," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren. "We committed too many turnovers. Our normal execution wasn't there. Our focus was not there."

Llagas, the hero in the Warriors' last victory over the Santo Tomas Tigers, scored on a putback off a missed jumper by Paul Lee to lift the Warriors up at 67-66 with 21.2 seconds remaining.

Arellano, who drained nine of his 14 points in the final period, converted three free throws in the last 6.1 seconds to doom the Bulldogs to their fifth loss in nine games.

The Warriors remained three wins ahead of the second-running La Salle Green Archers, who crushed the Adamson Falcons, 75-55, in the first game for a 7-3 record.

Veteran guards JV Casio and TY Tang starred as the Archers got off to a 25-8 start and a high 51.5-percent shooting clip in the first half.

The Bulldogs, who dropped to sixth place, rose from a 58-65 deficit with an 8-0 rally anchored on Jonathan Fernandez in the last two minutes.

A Michael Salvado layup capped the comeback that pushed the Bulldogs ahead, 66-65, with 30.3 seconds left.

But the Bulldogs missed easy attempts and even committed an inbound infraction with 5.8 ticks left.

After Chris Catamora missed two attempts at the paint, Arellano grabbed a crucial rebound and sealed the win with two charities, 69-66, with 6.1 seconds remaining.

With the Falcons' uninspired performance, the game almost seemed like a scrimmage for La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Rico Maierhofer paced the Archers with 12 points and seven rebounds, while Casio also collected 12 markers.

The Falcons fell to 1-8.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	10	0
La Salle	7	3
FEU	5	4
UST	5	4
Ateneo	4	4
NU	4	5
Adamson	1	8
UP	0	8

GAMES TOMORROW
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—UP vs La Salle (Srs)
4 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Ateneo (Srs)

The scores:

First Game

LA SALLE 75—Maierhofer 12, Casio 12, llad 9, Tang 9, Ferdinand 7, Walsham 6, Villanueva 6, Barua 4, Mangahas 3, Atkins 2, Lee 2, Co 2, Malabes 1, Cua 0.

ADAMSON 55—Cabahug 17, Hugnatan 16, Cañada 8, Gonzalgo 3, Canuday 3, Colina 2, Alvarez 2, Yambot 2, Gorospe 2, Santos 0.

Quarters: 25-8, 42-23, 58-38, 75-55

Second Game

UE 70—Arellano 14, Gregorio 9, Borboran 9, Lee 8, Fampulme 8, Thiele 7, Llagas 7, Martinez 3, Cañizares 3, Espiritu 2, Lingganay 0.

NU 66—Fernandez 21, Asoro 13, Salvado 9, Catamora 6, Ponferrada 4, Jahnke 4, Aguilar 2, Galapon 2, Luy 2, Lingao-Lingao 2, Malagueño 1, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 13-13, 35-30, 46-45, 70-66

UNIVERSITY of the East's Elmer Espiritu blocks an undergoal stab by National University's Joseph Lingao-Lingao during their game yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum. The league-leading Warriors flexed just enough muscle to hold off the Bulldogs. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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Bono still to get offer from Aces

By Musong R. Castillo

FOUR DAYS AFTER THE PBA Draft and three days into the allowed time to tender offers to rookies, former UAAP MVP Ken Bono has yet to receive one from Alaska management.

The Aces have only until Tuesday to give the 6-foot-5 Bono an offer or the team loses its rights on the burly center-forward selected sixth overall.

Alaska, as part of its bonus for winning the Fiesta Cup, is still in California for a vacation and won't be back until Sept. 1 at the earliest, that's why negotiations to sign Bono have not yet started.

League rules give teams a five-working-day grace period to be able to give offers to their rookies and gain the right-of-first refusal on their selections.

Failure to do so would make the rookie, like the others who were not picked on Draft day, automatic unrestricted free agents.

STAR WAITING: Ken Bono ERIK ARAZAS

Team manager Joaqui Trillo was present during the Draft.

According to Edgar Tan, who represents Bono, Trillo had also assured him that management will take care of business once the team returns from the trip.

JR Quinahan was the other player selected by the Aces.

"We wouldn't be asking for the moon, anyway," Tan told the INQUIRER over the phone. "We just want to be able to receive our tender offer so that we know where we stand."

Tan said he would haggle for a three-year package worth about P7 million for the baby-faced Bono, the prime reason why Adamson made the UAAP Final Four in 2006 and whose absence has made the Falcons struggle in nine matches this season.

Meanwhile, No. 1 Draft pick Joe Devance and Ryan Araña, the No. 12 pick, will sign three-year deals with the Dragons today.

Devance will be inking a deal that would pay him P8.544 million in basic pay, while Araña, the former La Salle stopper, will be making close to P6 million.

The Realtors have rejected all trade offers concerning JR Reyes, a 6-foot-1 point guard who will take over the team and fill the role which Alex Cabagnot played with great effect for close to two years.

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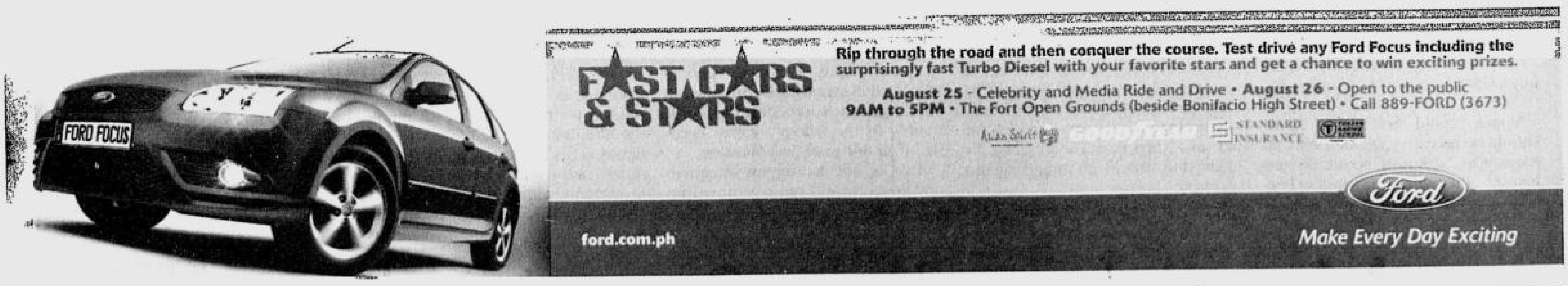

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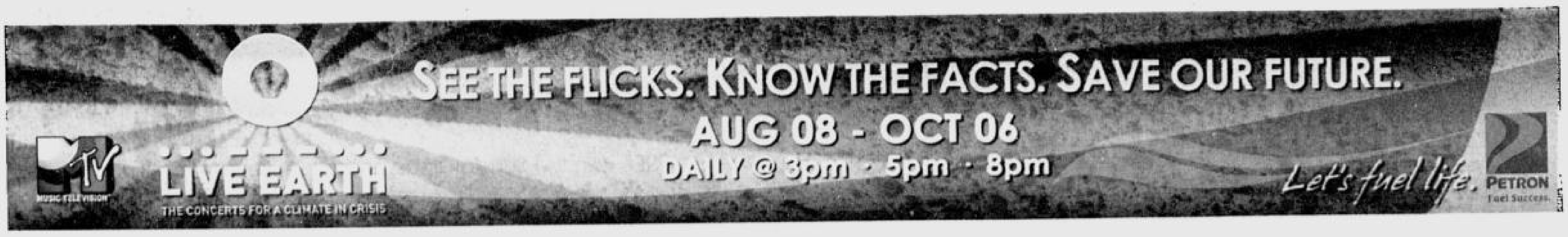

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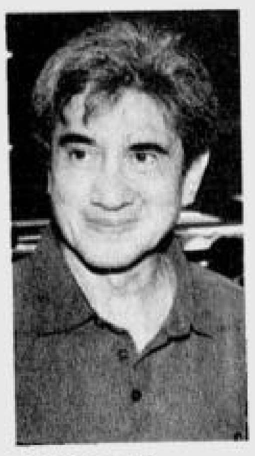
PSC seeks Gringo's help in claiming Pagcor share



HONASAN

By June Navarro

HOUNDED BY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE Philippine Sports Commission has asked the assistance of the Senate committee on sports in collecting the government agency's original share from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez personally sought the help of Sen. Gregorio Honasan in restoring the 5-percent share the PSC used to get from the Pagcor.

The Pagcor allocation for the PSC was slashed by half during the time of President Fidel V. Ramos, an avid sportsman.

The PSC share from the gross profits of Pagcor goes to the National Sports Development Fund, a cash reserve intended to subsidize the training, nutrition, housing, allowances and preparation of athletes for international events.

"I hope the Senate could help us bring back the 5-percent share of the PSC from Pagcor—it should go to sports," said Ramirez during Honasan's visit on Wednesday to the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Though Ramirez failed to reveal exact figures, a reliable PSC source said that a 5-percent share could fetch the government sports agency as much as P100 million a month from the estimated P2 billion monthly gross income of Pagcor.

The PSC currently receives half of that share (about P50 million) irregularly to bankroll the training expenditures of about a thousand athletes from the national pool and at least 200 coaches from 51 national sports associations.

Apart from those expenses, the PSC also shoulders the country's participation cost in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games and Olympics on top of the overseas exposures of the NSAs prior to these events.

"I will look into it and discuss the matter with my colleagues in the Senate," said Honasan, chair of the Senate sports panel.

Honasan met with the athletes, coaches and sports leaders from the PSC, POC and several NSAs to familiarize himself with sports issues.

Aborting NCAA cage season a Mancom option

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ABORT THE 2007 NCAA BASKETBALL season altogether.

This was among the possibilities the NCAA management committee considered during a meeting yesterday ahead of today's meeting of the higher NCAA Policy Board.

League sources said at least three member-schools are pushing for the scrapping of the basketball tournament if San Beda succeeds in getting an extension of the temporary restraining order (TRO) it secured from the court Wednesday against the league's decision to suspend Red Lion stalwart Yousif Aljamal for the rest of the season.

Aljamal—penalized for joining the PBA Rookie Draft last Sunday without securing permission from the league—went on to lead the Red Lions past the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers, 82-74, in their game Wednesday.

Aborting the cage season would hurt most the defending champion Red Lions, who are already in the Final Four with a 9-1 record and remained favorite to retain their title.

The same sources said the Mancom, after meeting with lawyers from host Jose Rizal and Mapua, may also go for tamer measures like forfeiture of San Beda games where Aljamal was fielded, or even a reduction of the penalty slapped on the Red Lion star.

Earlier in the day, San Beda expressed intention to seek an extension of the TRO while replacing Fr. Paul de Vera with Albert Almendralejo as its representative in the Mancom.

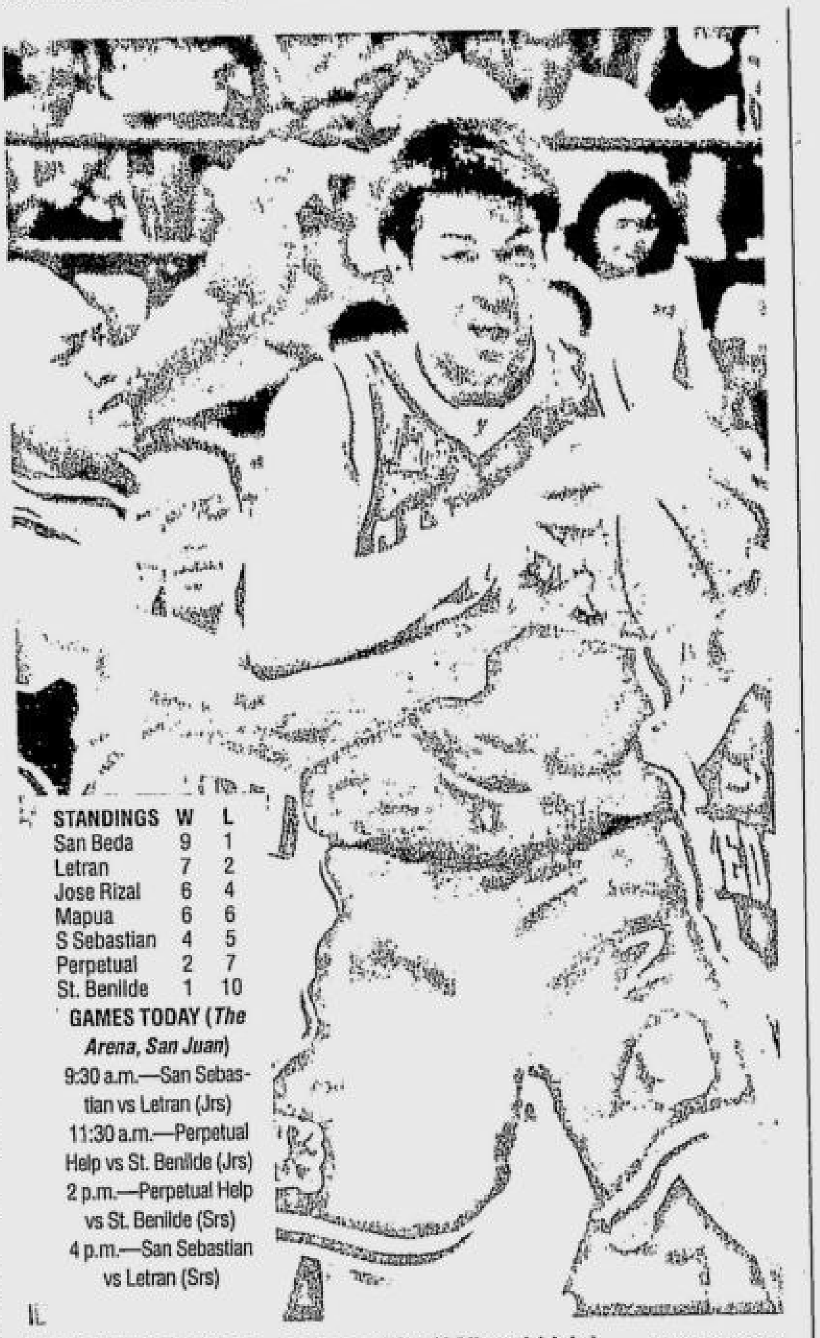
"That's probably the case (TRO extension) because we felt that we can no longer get fair treatment from the NCAA over a ruling that does not even have any provision in its constitution and bylaws," Fr. Mateo de Jesus, SBC rector and president, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The SBC policy board on Wednesday reportedly junked the Mancom recommendation for a season ban on Aljamal.

Meanwhile, Letran will try to join San Beda in the Final Four today when the Knights tangle at 4 p.m. with the San Sebastian Stags at the Arena in San Juan.

Also-rans Perpetual and St. Benilde earlier collide at 2 p.m.

Coming off a 15-day rest, Letran coach Louie Alas is confident his players will perform well against the Stags, whom the Knights defeated in the first round, 71-61.



STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	9	1
Letran	7	2
Jose Rizal	6	4
Mapua	6	6
S Sebastian	4	5
Perpetual	2	7
St. Benilde	1	10

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)

9:30 a.m.—San Sebastian vs Letran (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Perpetual Help vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Perpetual Help vs St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Letran (Srs)

UNDER THE GUN: San Beda star Yousif Aljamal (right). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RUSSIA-BOUND: Paulo Valdez and Liza del Rosario display their trophies after winning the national World Cup championships Wednesday. With them (from left) are Puyat Sports SVP Gilbert V. Gavino, SM Leisure Group VP Ric Camaligan and Puyat Sports Group VP Joey Puyat.

LUZVIMIN GOLF

Southwoods ladies ahead

REGINE DE GUZMAN CARDED 54 POINTS and sparked Manila Southwoods to an early two-point lead over defending champion Del Monte in the Diamond division at the start Wednesday of the Luzvimin Golf Invitational at the Cebu Country Club course in Cebu.

The reigning Thailand Ladies Amateur champion drew able support from Lora Roberto, Carmelette Villaroman and Beachie Abiera in the six-to-play, four-to-count format as the Southwoods ladies pooled 193.

Roberto had 49 points, Villaroman made 48 and Abiera 42. Claire Ong and Sandy Velhagen did not count with 41 and 35, respectively.

Del Monte fell two points behind at 191 built around the 53 of Lovelyn Guioguio, who is seeking a third straight individual crown.

Also scoring for Del Monte were Marian Woo (48), Kristine Leonen (46) and Eva Miñoza, the younger sister of pro star Frankie who contributed a 44.

Host Cebu Country Club, behind the 50 of club champion Stephanie Olea, was running third with 180 counting the 48 of Kathleen Uy, 43 of Hannah Wong and 39 of Ada Martinez.

Camp Aguinaldo was third at 175, Forest Hills fourth at 158, John Hay 144 and Mactan Coral 90.

Alabang showed the way in the Pearl division with 135, three clear of Wack Wack and six of Club Filipino.

It was a three-way fight among Negros (158), Sta. Elena (157) and Pamplona (156) in the Ruby Division.

Team Pacquiao going it without Fortune

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—TRUST WHAT Freddie Roach had to claim about a missing component in Team Pacquiao. The two-time Trainer of the Year said there would be no breakdown, no matter what, despite the absence of conditioning guru Justin Fortune.

Roach and Fortune, the best of partners, had a falling out after the physical conditioning master ran away with the trainer's check from Manny Pacquiao's last fight against Mexican Jorge Solis.

"He can have all the money," Roach remarked to dash reports he was planning to file charges, as he was officially entitled to the trainer's fee.

Fortune trained and prepared Pacquiao here for the Solis fight, while Roach was stuck with Oscar De La Hoya in Puerto Rico where the Golden Boy trained for Floyd Mayweather Jr.

* * *

Roach could be right. There should be no worry whatsoever that Fortune's departure could be unhealthy and create a soft spot in Pacquiao's total regimen.

The way he sounded, Roach was quite thankful Fortune was gone after having shown his true colors.

He did not say it, but at the height of displeasure, Roach was also suggesting Fortune's absence could even be helpful in their preparations.

"He was nothing, a nobody until I gave him a job," Roach declared.

* * *

You could bet Roach had an angry mouthful to say, but all the useless words should now be left in the brimming garbage can of boxing trash talk.

Of course, it was easy catching the old fury when Roach was quoted by philboxing.com in his tirade against his former partner.

There, in a flash, was the old fierceness which he had wielded in his days as a peppery top featherweight, banging it bloody against such greats as Bobby Chacon.

But take it easy, please. After a pause, here's a point worth pondering.

Isn't this the first time since Pacquiao has gone bang-bang bigtime on the world stage that he would be preparing for a major fight without Fortune looking after his health and power?

* * *

Members of the Pacquiao staff left behind here have openly noted that Fortune was already there in Pacquiao's first fight against Marco Antonio Barrera, whom he stopped, in November 2003.

These same Pacquiao people were one in swearing Fortune was a vital cog in the succeeding big bouts, mainly in the trilogy against certified Hall-of-Famer Erik Morales.

This is not to suggest Pacquiao and Roach would again venture into something untested and new.

* * *

Of course, they both had gone wrong in that first clash against Morales, a fact Roach and Pacquiao would admit, when they went blind thinking they could jumpstart, press all the way and overrun El Terrible.

Yes, Prof. Freddie knows best. We're, in fact, not in any position to even suggest he and Pacquiao would venture into another costly experiment.

Just the same, there were claims from the same Pacquiao people here that Fortune, said to be a strict disciplinarian, would've not allowed Pacquiao to risk his career and limb playing a full game of basketball now that they are in the thick of training.

* * *

TINY TIP: Sultry Ara Mina will be featured in a concert of Freddie Aguilar, under the Watawat Band, at the Blue Room of the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas on Aug. 26. It is the same casino-hotel where Pacquiao meets Barrera in a rematch on Oct. 6.

SPORTSWATCH

P25M at stake as Asia Pacific Poker Tour comes off wraps

THREE FORMER WORLD CHAMPIONS head the elite cast vying for P25 million in prize money as the inaugural tournament of the Asia Pacific Poker Tour begins today at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila.

Daniel Negreanu, the 2004 World Poker Tour winner, and World of Series of Poker titlists Joe Hachem (2005) and Mansour Matloubi (1990) are just three of the 150 foreign entries in the three-day event produced by PokerStars.com, the world's largest online poker site, and sanctioned by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Overseeing Asia's richest poker tournament is Danny McDonagh, under whose direction the Aussie Millions has become one of the world's best run poker tourneys.

Franco Mabanta, PokerStars.com's principal consultant in the Philippines, said 40 players advanced to the main tourney from the well-attended satellite events.

Action starts at 2 p.m. with the top nine finishers from the elimination rounds over the first two days advancing to the championship showdown on Sunday.

SM Megamall skaters rule

PRODIGIOUS MICHAEL BARBOSA'S 12-gold, 11-silver and seven-bronze medal haul anchored SM Megamall's victory in the team competition of the recent Skate Asia 2007 at the SM Mall of Asia rink.

SM Megamall ice skaters pooled 7,001.5 points to beat teams from China, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States and the host country.

The 9-year-old Barbosa shared the spotlight with teammate Megan Esteban, at two years the meet's youngest, and SM Southmall's Venicio Rañosa, the eldest at 71.

"SM's effort to promote ice skating has borne fruit," said SM Leisure Center vice president Ric Camaligan. "Homegrown skaters now show the world that we can excel in ice skating."

Gerry, RP jins Scoop guests

REIGNING WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION bantamweight champion Gerry Peñalosa together with the national taekwondo team will grace today's session of the Scoop sa Kamayan in Padre Faura, Manila.

Peñalosa is expected to discuss his plans following his upset win over Mexican Jhonny Gonzales two weeks ago.

RP coach Stephen Fernandez will be joined by taekwondo jins Veronica Domingo, Billy Coral and Sabrina Simbulan.

Special derby in Pasay today

MORE THAN 50 FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP today's showdown featuring small-time cockers and derby regulars from Metro Manila in a special 3-cock derby starting at 7 p.m. at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the derby dangles a P150,000 prize and is hosted by Dick Olano and Lito and Ame Zarate. Entry fee is P5, 500.

Meanwhile, the National Cockers Association's five-leg stag derby series gets under way at the same venue on Sept. 4.

Gov. Ito Ynares, the Firefly group, Vice Gov. Boyet Joson and Arman Santos are hosting the NCA opener.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—El Banquero (4), Unopposed (5), El Terrible Friend (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Miss Bobon/Simply Strong (4), Miss Malabon (1), Hurry Princess (2), Lady Beware (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Legendary (3), Lady Cugat (5), Midnight King (6), Dualarge (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Jaded Dancer (2), Out Of Sight (5), Jazzineth Blues/Splendor (3), Anahita (6)
Race 5—(Tri)—Pay To See (4), Hazit Coming (3), Karma (1)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Bull Rock (5), Quant Je Puia (8), Burst of Speed (1), Landed Visa (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Daog (3), El Cid (6), Infinite Passion (1), Cool Turner (2)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Miss Lilypilly (7), Barawanawest (6), Circulation (4), Hazmagic (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Take Ten (3), Blue Shiekh (4), Prince Larry (2), Gun Powder (6), Maslado (1), Camberwell Beauty (10)

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Taiwanese shut door on Blu Girls

JAKARTA—THE PHILIPPINE BLU Girls again missed the boat to the world championship after bowing to Chinese Taipei, 9-1, yesterday in the Ninth Asian Women's Softball tournament here.

After crushing host Indonesia, 6-1, late Wednesday, the Southeast Asian champion Blu Girls could get only two hits off Taiwanese pitcher Chiu Ming-hui and were out of it as they trailed by eight runs when the game was called after five innings.

The two singles Chiu yielded produced a run for the Blu Girls in the first inning, but the Taiwanese quickly regained the upperhand with two runs in their half of the frame.

Chiu went on to shut out the Filipinas in the next four innings while her teammates battered three RP pitchers for six hits, including an inside-the-park homer by Huang Hui-wen.

"*Kulang pa talaga ang preparasyon* (We lacked sufficient training)," rued RP coach Ana Santiago, noting that the Blu Girls hit well in one game and then struggled to get a hit in the next.

The fourth place finish, however, improved by a notch the national squad's showing in the same event in Manila two years ago.

The victory sent the Taiwanese into a rematch with elimination-round conqueror China in a duel for the right to face defending champion Japan for the title.

The powerhouse Japanese shut out China, 7-0, earlier in the day to clinch the first title slot. The loser of the Taiwan-China contest ends up third.

South Korea skidded to fifth from from fourth in 2005, while the Hernando Posadas-coached Indonesians finished sixth. Thailand was seventh, Singapore, handled by another Filipino tactician, Ulysses Mejia, was eighth, followed by Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Dimakiling, Nadera head Pinoy chessers' title drive

Standings after sixth round

5.0 points—GM Zhang Zhong (China), WGM Li Ruofan (China), Zhou Weiqi (China), Chao Li (China); 4.5—IM Oliver Dimakiling (RP), IM Richard Bitoon (RP), IM Barlo Nadera (RP), GM Dao Thien Hai (Vietnam), GM Ziaur Rahman (Bangladesh), IM Wang Rui (China), Wan Yunguo (China), IM Sadikin Irwanto (Indonesia), IM Gary Lane (Australia); 4.0—FM Hamed Nouri (RP), NM Emmanuel Senador (RP), NM Rolando Nolte (RP), WGM Zhang Jilin (China), IM Grinath P.D.S. (India), IM Mas Hafizuhelmi (Malaysia), FM Ton That Nhu Tung (Vietnam), Aman Khairul (Malaysia)

DIMAKILING

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTERS Oliver Dimakiling and Richard Bitoon drew their sixth round match yesterday to stay in contention in the 2007 Dato Artur Tan Malaysian Open at the Cititel Midvalley Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dimakiling and Bitoon improved their score to 4.5 points and climbed into a tie for 5th to 13th places with countryman IM Barlo Nadera, GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam, GM Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh, IM Wang Rui and Wan Yunguo of China, IM Sadikin Irwanto of Indonesia and IM Gary Lane of Australia.

Other sixth round matches saw Nadera split the point with Rahman and IM Ronald Bancod yield to Indonesian IM Sadikin Irwanto.

Top seed GM Zhang Zhong and Li Chao of China hurdled their assignments to join fellow Chinese WGM Ruofan Li and Weiqi Zhou in the lead with 5.0 points apiece. Zhang crushed IM Girinath P.D.S. of India while Chao bested Filipino Fide Master Hamed Nouri.

Other Filipinos in the title hunt were NM Emmanuel Senador (4.0 points), and NM Rolando Nolte (4.0). *Marlon Bernardino*

Rosales, Murakami 3 off pace

JOHOR BHARU, MALAYSIA—CHINESE Taipei's Lin Chien-bing conquered the tricky greens to take the first-round lead at the Iskandar Johor Open on Thursday.

Lin, 33, tamed the challenging par-71 course at the Royal Johor Country Club with a four-under-par 67 and was a stroke ahead of Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit leader Liang Wen-chong.

South Korea's Lee Sung tied for third after a 69 with Sung Mao-chang of Chinese Taipei in the $300,000 event.

Thai Panuwat Muenlek was in joint fifth after a 70 alongside Stephen Scahill, Filipinos Gerald Rosales and Artemio Murakami, India's Gaurav Ghei, Steve Parry of England, Australia's Adam Groom, and Eddie Heinen of United States.

Five other Filipinos in this event kicking off the second half of the Asian Tour were in contention to make the halfway cut with Angelo Que and Jerome Delariarte matching par 71, Tony Lascuña and Mars Pucay carding 72s and Juvic Pagunsan scoring 73. *Asian Tour News*

Mayol cuts Batawang, sparring halted

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—RODEL MAYOL WHAMMED a sharp left hook to the head that cut Bert Batawang yesterday, prompting a halt to the sparring program for the Sept. 16 world light flyweight title bid of the wounded challenger.

Batawang, 35, is going for the IBF 108-lb. crown of Mexican Ulises Solis, who stopped Mayol last Aug. 4 in Chicago.

Despite the thick head guard, a small wound was inflicted on the tip of Batawang's right eyebrow in the sparring session.

There was an immediate announcement at Wild Card here that Batawang won't spar again until Monday.

If the brow cut is still fresh, trainer Jerimiah Quijano said they would instead emphasize on road work and heavy gym work.

Mayol, preparing for a fight in the Oct. 6 Manny Pacquiao-Marco Antonio Barrera rematch at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, said the hard-hitting Batawang has the big punch that could stop Solis.

W. Wack Prexy's Cup under way

TAN: At the helm

MORE THAN 300 PLAYERS will be battling for individual titles and fabulous raffle prizes at stake as the 7th President's Cup, the first major tournament under new club president Luis K. Tan, comes off the wraps today at the East and West courses of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

The President's Cup, which coincides with the birthday of Tan, will be a double shotgun tee-off at the West layout. The first batch starts play at 7 a.m while the second set begins at 12:30 p.m. Over at the East course, a sequential tee-off will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Hyundai Tucson from Wheels Inc., a Toyota Yaris from Toyota Balintawak, a Chery Tiggo from Autohub, two golf carts from Kart Plaza and Turf Company and two Northwest Airlines Manila-East Coast-Manila business class tickets are at stake as hole-in-one prizes.

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IAAF eyes 4-year ban on drug cheats

OSAKA, JAPAN—ATHLETICS CHIEFS ON THURSDAY CALLED ON world authorities to get tough on drug cheats by imposing a mandatory 4-year ban. The International Association of Athletics Federations made the appeal ahead of a global doping conference. *AFP*

SPORTS

Hungarian stuns Hantuchova

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT—SLOVAKIAN DANIELA HANTUCHOVA was beaten by a Hungarian qualifier in the second round of the WTA event in New Haven on Wednesday. The second seed was broken five times as Agnes Szavay, ranked 41, clinched a 7-5 6-3 victory. *Reuters*

US cagers flaunt might; Brazil up

LAS VEGAS—CARMELO ANTHONY scored 17 points, Kobe Bryant added 14, and the United States rolled to a 112-69 victory over Venezuela on Wednesday in its opening game of the Americas basketball championship.

Game Today
(Basketball TV)
11 a.m.—USA vs. Virgina Islands

Michael Redd also had 17 points, Amare Stoudemire scored 16 and Dwight Howard 12 for the Americans, who improved to 27-0 in the regional Olympic qualifier. The Americans face the US Virgin Islands in the final game Thursday.

Also, Mexico downed Puerto Rico 100-89, Uruguay overcame Panama, 88-84, in overtime, and Brazil held off Canada, 75-67.

Bryant was making his long-awaited international debut, while Anthony was the leading American scorer last year at the world championships.

Greivis Vasquez scored 12 points for Venezuela, which will face Canada on Thursday.

Earlier, Victor Mariscal scored 30 points, 22 in the first half to lead Mexico over Puerto Rico.

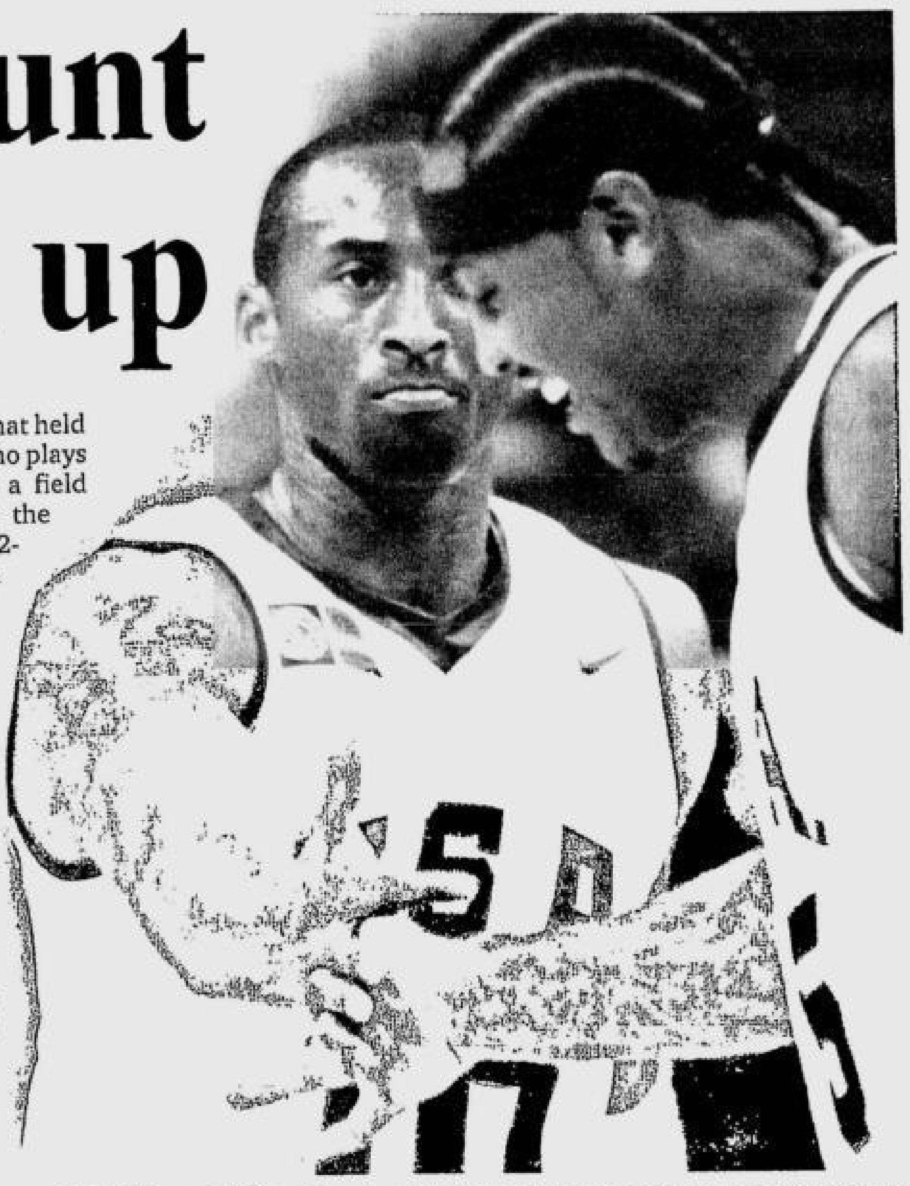
With a strong defensive effort that held Puerto Rico star Carlos Arroyo, who plays for the Orlando Magic, without a field goal, Mexico pulled away after the Puerto Ricans rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit to grab a one-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

Puerto Rico committed 27 turnovers, 15 in the first half. That helped Mexico outscore the Puerto Ricans 13-5 in the final 5 minutes of the second quarter to build a 57-45 halftime lead.

Rick Apodaca had 15 points, and Reyes added 14 for Puerto Rico, which has struggled since upsetting the United States in the 2004 Olympics.

Esteban Batista scored 26 points, including the basket that forced overtime with under two seconds left in regulation, for Uruguay to overcome Panama 88-84.

Batista's basket with 1:54 left in overtime gave Uruguay the lead for good at 81-79. He also grabbed 19 rebounds. *AP*



KOBE Bryant (left) celebrates with Carmelo Anthony after the United States' 112-69 victory over Venezuela. REUTERS

NY skyline inspires Sharapova's Open outfit

SHARAPOVA AP

NEW YORK—WHEN Maria Sharapova defends her U.S. Open title next week, she'll be wearing tennis dresses decorated with graphic interpretations of New York's skyline.

The designs, created in collaboration with Nike senior designer Colleen Sandieson, were unveiled on Wednesday on a rooftop at Rockefeller Center.

Like last year, Sharapova will have one outfit dedicated for day play and another for night matches.

"It's always important to feel comfortable in what you're wearing when you're playing, but in tennis, you can do so many things with your wardrobe," Sharapova said wearing the flame-red dress in a flared shift silhouette that she'll wear at night.

The color is in honor of the Big Apple. "I've worn a red top before but never a red dress, but there is no better place to do it than New York," she told the Associated Press.

The dress is a sleek garment made of a breathable wicking jersey and constructed with a no-sew technique with seams bonded with heat and silicone instead of thread.

There are more than 600 Swarovski crystals incorporated into the design, adding a little flash to the outfit, but Sharapova said it's simple and classy, which suits her taste. "I don't like things with too much pattern ... things that are tacky."

There also are three crystal buttons down the back, creating a keyhole effect.

Rangers rip Orioles with record 30 runs

BALTIMORE—THE TEXAS RANGERS became the first team in 110 years to score 30 runs in a game, setting an American League record in a 30-3 rout of Baltimore on Wednesday.

Trailing 3-0 in the opener of a doubleheader, the Rangers scored five runs in the fourth, nine in the sixth, 10 in the eighth and six in the ninth.

It was the ninth time a major league team scored 30 runs, the first since Chicago set the major league record in a 36-7 rout of Louisville in a National League game in 1897, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Marlon Byrd and Travis Metcalf hit grand slams for the Rangers. Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Ramon Vazquez each homered twice and finished with seven RBIs.

David Murphy had five of the Rangers' 29 hits, the most by a major league team since Milwaukee had 31 against Toronto in 1992.

Hours after announcing manager Dave Trembley would return for the 2008 season, the Orioles absorbed the most lopsided loss in franchise history and set a team record for hits allowed in a game.

In the second game, Texas rallied to win 9-7, with Baltimore reliever Jim Hoey (1-1) taking the loss. Joaquin Benoit (6-3) earned the victory with 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief. C.J. Wilson pitched the ninth for his seventh save. 4

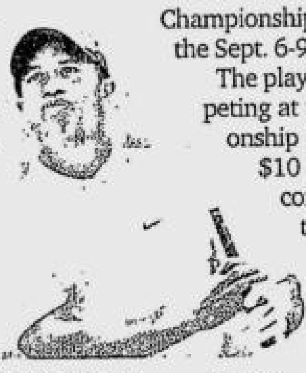
At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer's grand slam fueled a seven-run first inning for Minnesota and the Twins ended Seattle's winning streak at five, 8-4. *AP*

Tiger's absence provides tour with new excitement

HARRISON, NEW YORK—PGA TOUR commissioner Tim Finchem has tried to put a positive spin on Tiger Woods's absence from this week's Barclays Classic, the opening event of the inaugural FedEx Cup playoff series.

"From the standpoint of the sponsor here it's certainly a negative," Finchem told reporters on Wednesday. "Watching the e-mails and blogs come through over the past week ... the fans seem to have a different view.

"They seem to think Tiger was going to win this thing (the series) and now it's not so sure he's going to win it so it creates more excitement and more enthusiasm."



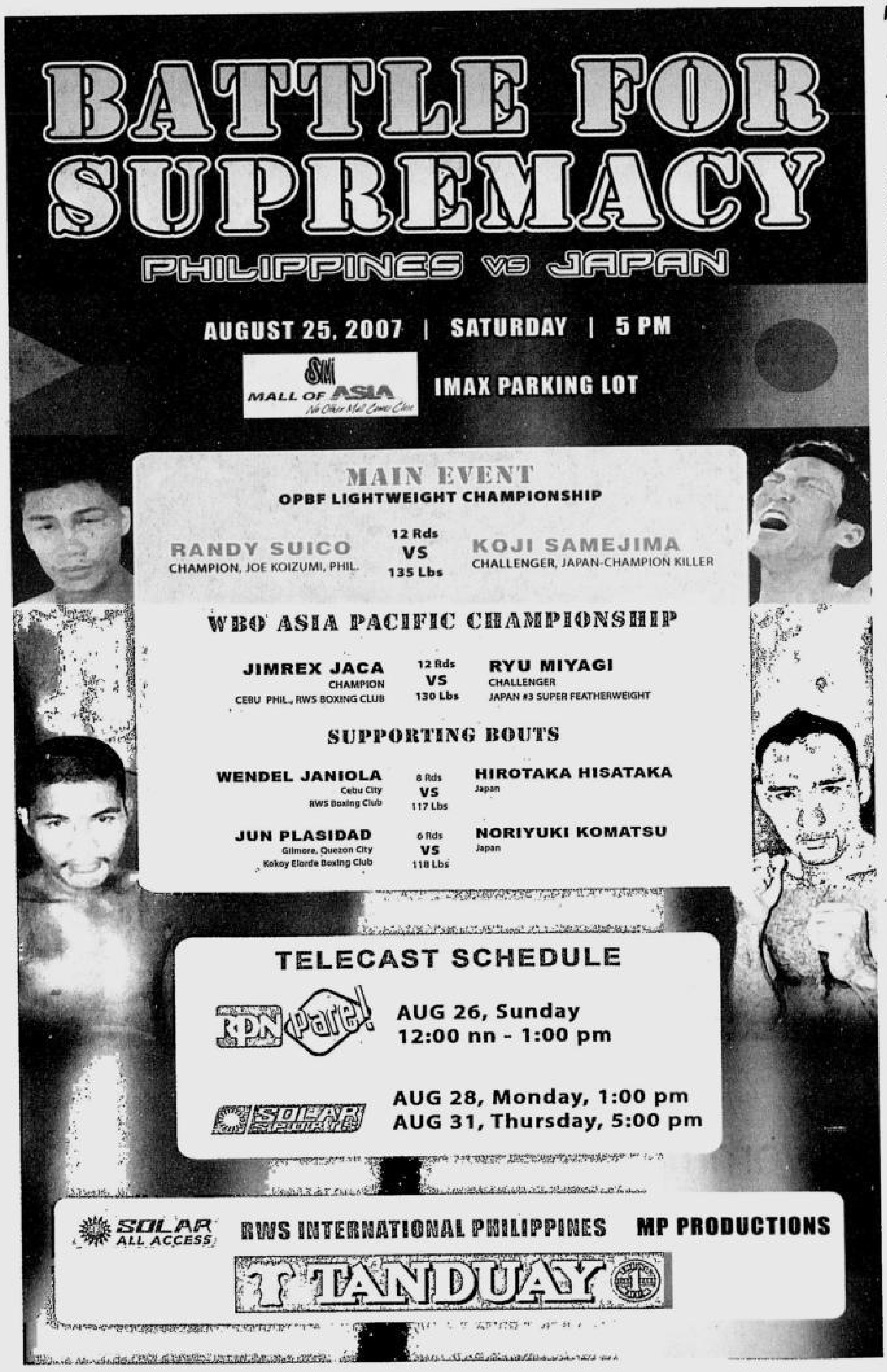
TIGER Woods REUTERS

World number one Woods cited fatigue for his withdrawal after winning the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational and US PGA Championship in successive weeks.

The 144-strong field here will be cut to 120 for the following week at the Deutsche Bank Championship before 70 players qualify for the Sept. 6-9 BMW Championship.

The playoffs end with the top 30 competing at the Sept 13-16 Tour Championship in Atlanta, Georgia where a $10 million bonus in deferred compensation will be earned by the overall champion.

Vijay Singh, the second-seeded player, won the Barclays last year to claim his third triumph at Westchester Country Club. *Reuters*



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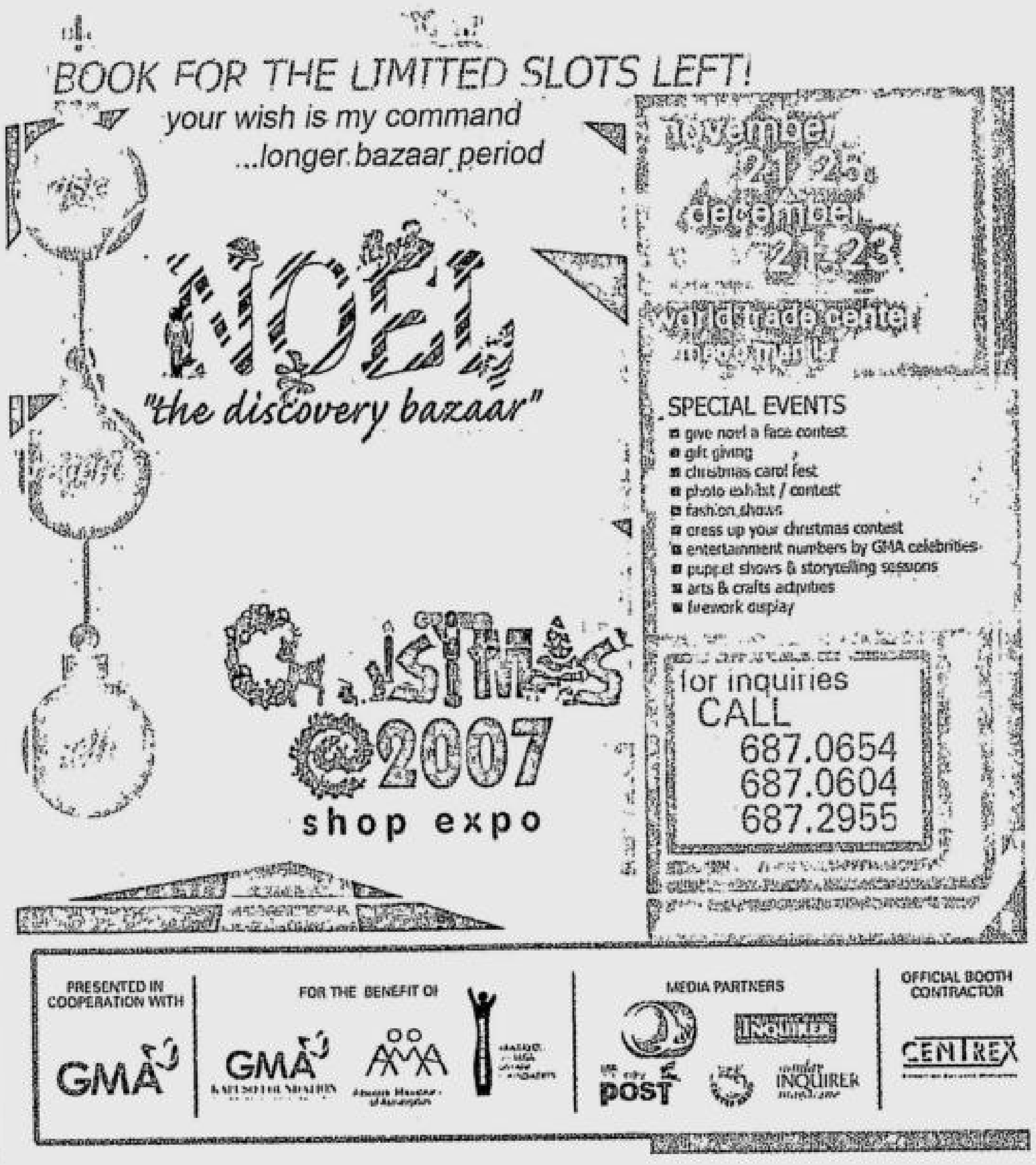

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Peso seen hitting 44.50:$1 by year's end

Rising trend still intact, says Citigroup economist

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY RALlied against the dollar but later succumbed to profit-taking while the regional currency markets rebounded on hopes that the US Federal Reserve will soon take more measures to offset a worsening credit crunch.

The local currency hit a high of 46.28 in early morning trade but closed near the day's low at 46.64, weaker than the previous day's finish of 46.47, as some market players saw an opportunity to lock in gains or fulfill requirements, currency traders said.

The third quarter is usually a weak period for the peso due to the seasonal surge in demand for dollars to cover importation requirements ahead of the Christmas season.

But traders said market sentiment had improved, reflecting the recovery in regional markets. Most currencies in the region gained against the greenback on optimism caused by the US Fed's decision last Friday to cut its rediscount rate by 50 basis points.

PESO/B2

IN THIS ISSUE

- **BSP keeps interest** rates steady /B5
- **Agri growth seen** slowing to 2% in '07 /B8

SMC, Oishi maker push overseas expansion

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TWO FILIPINO COMPANIES—SAN MIGUEL Corp. and Liwayway Marketing Corp. (makers of the Oishi line of snacks)—are pursuing expansion projects outside the country.

Now enjoying good sales in Vietnam, San Miguel is exploring putting up a new brewery in neighboring Cambodia, while Oishi is planning to put up a new plant in China, the world's fourth biggest economy.

Following a Good News Kapihan briefing at Figaro Greenbelt yesterday, San Miguel assistant vice president for special projects Benjamin Aton Jr. said that the beer-based giant was adding brewery capacity at its Nha Trang City plant in central Vietnam to 500,000 hectoliters from 200,000 hectoliters a year despite the competitive environment.

The company produces San Miguel Pale Pilsen and San Mig Light in Vietnam. It also manufactures "biahoy," a local Vietnamese non-pasteurized draft beer.

With the additional capacity, the company is looking at bringing other "light" beer product brands to Vietnam.

"The potential there is big. The Vietnamese are heavy drinkers, they drink every night," Aton said when asked about San Miguel's expansion tack in Vietnam's competitive beer market.

San Miguel's presence in Vietnam dates back to 1995 with the setting up of San Miguel Brewery Vietnam Ltd.

SMC/B2

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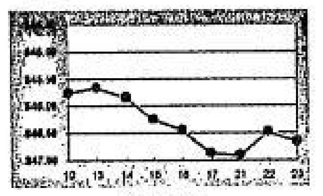


AUGUST

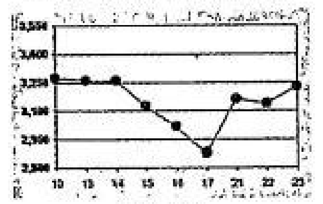
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 46.64 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



AUGUST

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 2.9% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 2.9-PERCENT higher yesterday, tracking gains on Wall Street overnight amid signs that worries about the lending troubles in the US may be easing, dealers said.

The market has now recovered more than two-thirds of the losses it made last week, mirroring the shift in sentiment around the world, they added.

The composite index gained 89.69 points to settle at 3,229.15 off the day's high of 3,254.94. The broader all-share index gained 55.12 points to 2,064.52.

There were 127 gainers and 13 losers, while 20 stocks were unchanged. Volume totalled 2.9 billion shares worth P5.0 billion ($108 million).

"There's a sense of optimism in Asian markets following last week's turmoil," said DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila. "The focus is back on valuation and fundamentals."

Wall Street surged Wednesday as investors saw a pullback in US treasuries and an increase in borrowing by banks as signs that the Federal Reserve's efforts to loosen up the credit market might be working.

SHARES/B4

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PNOC head becomes subsidiary chair

By Abigail L. Ho

PEDRO AQUINO JR., PRESIDENT of the state-run Philippine National Oil Co., is relinquishing his post to take over the chairmanship of wholly owned subsidiary PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Current PNOC-EDC chair Antonio Cailao will take Aquino's place at the mother company when the latter's term expires at the end of this month.

Asked for confirmation, PNOC-EDC president Paul Aquino said the "job switch" would indeed take place at month's end, with the formal board election set for Aug. 30.

A person familiar with the matter said the job switch was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to fast-track the privatization of the government's remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would fetch for the government between P32 billion and P36 billion.

This amount would be used to finance the government's remaining expenditure program, as well as reduce the budget deficit.

He said that the PNOC board is now in the process of looking for a financial adviser for the 40-percent stake sale.

CLSA, the adviser for the sale of the initial 60-percent PNOC-EDC stake that was privatized this year and last year, could still be awarded the advisory contract, Teves said.

SMC, Oishi ...

From page B1

Cognizant of Vietnam's continued economic growth, San Miguel extended its business beyond beer to packaging and food through the purchase in 2003 of TTC Vietnam Ltd., (now San Miguel Pure Foods [VN] Co. Ltd.)—currently the springboard of its food ventures.

In 2004, the company again invested in a new business venture through San Miguel (Vietnam) Co. Ltd., a non-alcoholic beverage facility in Bien Hoa City to make and market soft beverages such as ready-to-drink juices, iced tea and other beverages.

Aside from Vietnam, San Miguel is exploring plans to put up a brewery in Cambodia, which is bordered by South Vietnam to the east.

San Miguel currently exports Pale Pilsen and Blue Ice beer to Cambodia. Export volumes to Cambodia are estimated at 35,000 cases a year.

To put up a plant that can produce roughly 200,000 hectoliters a year of beer, San Miguel would need about $16 million.

San Miguel may come up with a decision on its proposed Cambodia brewery venture by 2010.

Meantime, Oishi has recently put up a new snacks and candies plant in Hanoi after its first plant in Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam.

It operates 12 plants in China where it has dominated the snacks market and intends to put up a new plant there in Xin Jiang by 2008, said Jay Diaz, Liwayway Marketing assistant to the chair. The company is owned by the Chan family.

Oishi completed a plant in Thailand and Indonesia last year. It also has one manufacturing plant in Myanmar and three plants in the Philippines.

The average cost of putting up a plant is $5-$8 million for the building and land.

Peso ...

From page B1

Many saw this as a signal that the US Fed would next lower its funds rate, the more significant interest rate benchmark, as early as next month in order to infuse liquidity following the credit squeeze triggered by high delinquency in the high-risk or subprime mortgage market.

Citigroup economist Jun Trinidad said in their latest market commentary that the strong peso trend remained intact and that a modest relief for the peso this week was expected. However, he cautioned that the US Fed's monetary easing would not be a cure for all the subprime risk and volatility.

Given the recent financial market volatility and demand created by the import season, Trinidad said the peso would likely remain around 46 to $1 by the end of the third quarter.

"We expect a favorable currency trend to materialize, but we temper our optimism to adjust our end-December peso forecast to 44.50 from the previous 44," Trinidad said.

He said the remittance season toward the yearend should provide strong liquidity support coupled with a weak dollar environment heading into 2008 as the US Fed lowers its key interest rate.

"While the potential for offshore market gyrations remain with 'carry trade' unlikely to resume in the near term, we believe some relief rally for the Asian currency and equity markets on the back of good fundamentals will materialize," Trinidad said.

Carry trade refers to the borrowing of cheap money from low-interest-rate markets like Japan to fund high-yielding but higher-risk investments in emerging markets like the Philippines.

Asean sees no letup in investment growth

Level of inflows in '06 was the highest in the region since the Asian meltdown

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST Asian Nations is bracing for continued growth of investment as the region remains to be a "relatively attractive" site for inflows.

Asean secretary general Ong Keng Yong said he believed investment inflows, which reached $52.4 billion in 2006, would grow continually amid forecasts that the region would become even more competitive in the coming years.

Ong, along with Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, held a briefing yesterday following the 10th Asean Investment Area Council meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

"Governments are (stepping up) efforts to increase this attractiveness, which Asean is continually achieving through agreements that have been concluded (so far)," he said. "Asean offers good opportunities to investors as well as safe and sound venues for (their projects) compared to other regions."

Ong said the region's nearness to emerging giant markets such as India and China was also helping build up investor interest.

Further, he said, business prospects for the region was being buoyed by Asean's ability to sell better its ideas and visions.

On the other hand, Ong said the rosy picture was also due to "sheer good luck."

"People have money to invest and we are ready for it," the official said. "We have a certain positive feeling (on the investment front). Last year's growth at 28 percent was phenomenal, and we expect growth to become stable in the next year or two."

The investment level in 2006 was the highest attained since Asean got back on track to its pre-Asian financial crisis performance in 2004. That year, some $34 billion flowed in—the same amount seen before the crisis struck the region in 1997.

During the AIA Council meeting, Ong said that investors need not think twice about doing business here because Asean offers a single market and production base; a highly competitive overall economy; equitable economic development between big business and small and medium enterprises, and a region that is "fully integrated in the global economy."

"We as policy-makers are elated by the prospects of the region as we approach 2015," he told the council. "We would like you to be with us as we integrate our economies and thereby assist you in growing your businesses and expanding your operations."

AIA Council data show that investment in the manufacturing sector grew 27 percent to $32.3 billion in 2006, most of which flowed into the sectors of radio, television and communication equipment; chemicals and chemical products; basic metals; machinery and equipment, and nonmetallic minerals.

Still, Ong called on governments as well as investors to help increase activities in the services sectors, which he said represented one of the key strengths of Asean.

It's the IFM, stupid

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

WHEN FORMER AMERICAN PRESIDENT Bill Clinton was asked what the main issue was in his presidential campaign, he said: "It's the economy, stupid!"

The American public agreed, and Clinton won the presidency.

Yesterday, the Philippine Daily Inquirer came out with an editorial headlined, "It's the basics, stupid!" It was in reaction to the many comments regarding educational reform.

It stated: "Obviously, educational reforms are needed, but they should start at the heart of the matter: A bureaucracy that is supposed to address the needs of the educational system, but can't get the basics right."

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, who has a track record of successful turnarounds, is already tackling this issue.

For those of us involved in the antismuggling campaign, when asked what the key factor is in fighting smuggling, our answer is: "It's the IFM, stupid!"

It was announced yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself would conduct monthly command conferences with the Bureau of Customs. Hopefully, the expected focus on IFM will significantly reduce smuggling activities and add P80 billion to our revenue.

DATE	EVENT
March 2004	Cocas established; Access to IFM made possible
August 2004	Cocas abolished; IFM access terminated
March 2006	IFM access promised (but not delivered)
January 2007	MOA with BOC providing IFM access to DA (but not implemented)
August 2007	President starts BOC Command Conferences, with hope that IFM access will finally be implemented

Lost revenue

IFM stands for Inward-Forward Manifest, which lists the products being imported, the ship being used, and the date of arrival. The Bureau of Customs usually receives this information two or more days before the ship arrives.

But only the BOC has access to these IFMs. This is good for the smugglers and their conniving partners (a minority, but a powerful one) in the BOC. Since no one knows what is being imported except the BOC and the smugglers, the appropriate taxes are not collected.

How much is the foregone revenue? According to the United Nations' records, there is a US$10 billion difference between the value of goods the exporting countries report they have sent, and the value of goods the BOC reports we have received.

If the UN report is to be believed, then we have a US$10-billion smuggling problem. Given the 12 percent VAT and the average 6 percent tariff duties, there is an 18 percent loss of revenue. This amounts to US$1.8 billion, or at least P80 billion.

We believe much of this loss may be attributed to the BOC having sole access to the IFMs.

But such was not always the case. The table above shows the recent history of IFM in this country.

IFM access

In March 2004, the President established the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Antismuggling (Cocas). This was composed of cabinet secretaries from relevant departments, such as agriculture, trade and industry, finance and justice. Then Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes chaired the Cocas. He asked three organizations to become permanent participants in the biweekly meetings: Alyansa Agrikultura for agriculture, Federation of Philippine Industries for industry, and Fair Trade Alliance for trade.

From March to August 2004, relevant government and selected private sector representatives had access to IFMs. These representatives monitored the IFMs. Thus, when a shipment arrives, a watchlist is provided to catch potential smugglers.

The IFMs were also useful even after smuggled goods had left the ports. For example, onion import shipments without import permits could still be traced. Today, since only the BOC has access to IFMs, no one else knows which goods have actually arrived at, and left, the ports. This may be the reason why there is a US$10-billion difference between the reports of the exporting country and our own BOC reports.

Earlier, the BOC made a public commitment to allow freer access to IFM. It made the announcement to representatives of Alyansa Agrikultura on March 1, 2006 during a Makati Business Club meeting. Also, the BOC and the Department of Agriculture on Jan. 8, 2007 signed a memorandum of agreement over the IFM access. Members of the Alyansa Agrikultura even witnessed the signing. But to this day, the BOC remains the sole agency that has access to IFMs.

We hope that, during the President's command conference with the Customs bureau, the IFM issue will be resolved.

Conclusion

Activities such as destroying smuggled cars may have been useful in highlighting the renewed drive against smuggling. However, we agree that further destruction of cars should be foregone. Auction proceeds should instead go to projects like the "Gawad Kalinga," which currently has an agricultural livelihood component fully supported by the Alyansa Agrikultura.

Also, the IFMs must be made accessible. Officials need only to implement the MOA between the BOC and the DA.

At the end of the year, when we are asked why smuggling has decreased significantly, the same way it did in 2004, we hope to answer: "The President herself addressed the IFM, stupid!"

(The author is Agriwatch chair, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.72215	1.77213
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3624	1.3713

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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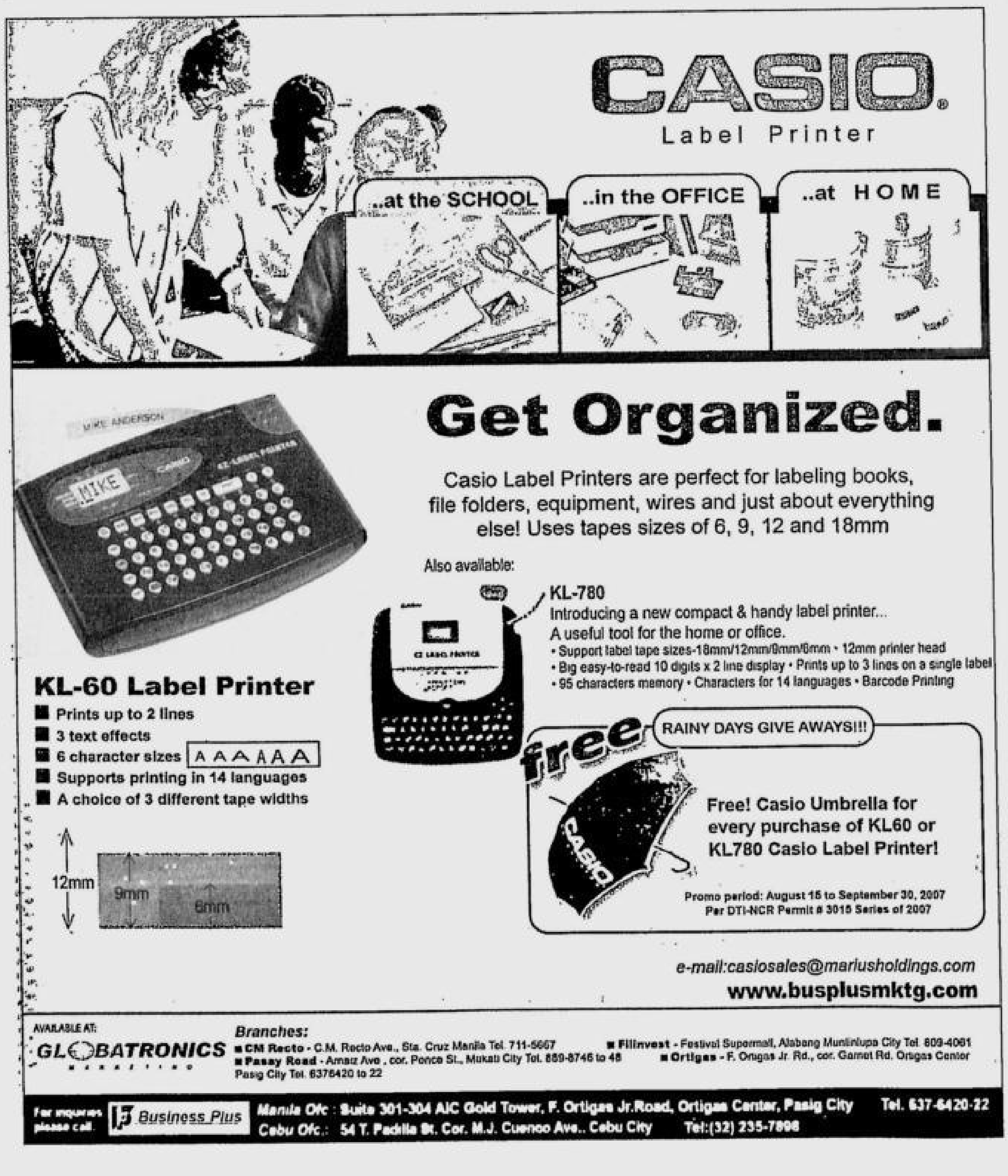
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Gov't to bid out Ambuklao-Binga hydropower facilities in November

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has placed the 175-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package on the auction block, heeding President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to accelerate the privatization of the government's energy sector stakes and assets.

In an invitation to bid published on Aug. 21, PSALM said prospective bidders had up to Sept. 14 to submit their letters of interest in bidding for the hydropower facilities.

Before potential bidders could secure the bidding package, however, they would first have to execute a confidentiality agreement and undertaking with PSALM and pay a nonrefundable $1,000 participation fee on or before Sept. 18.

The pre-bidding conference for the plant package has been scheduled for Sept. 26, with the actual bidding date to be set within the year.

PSALM said it was hoping to auction off the plants by end-November.

The 75-MW Ambuklao and 100-MW Binga hydropower facilities are two of the oldest National Power Corp. plants, having

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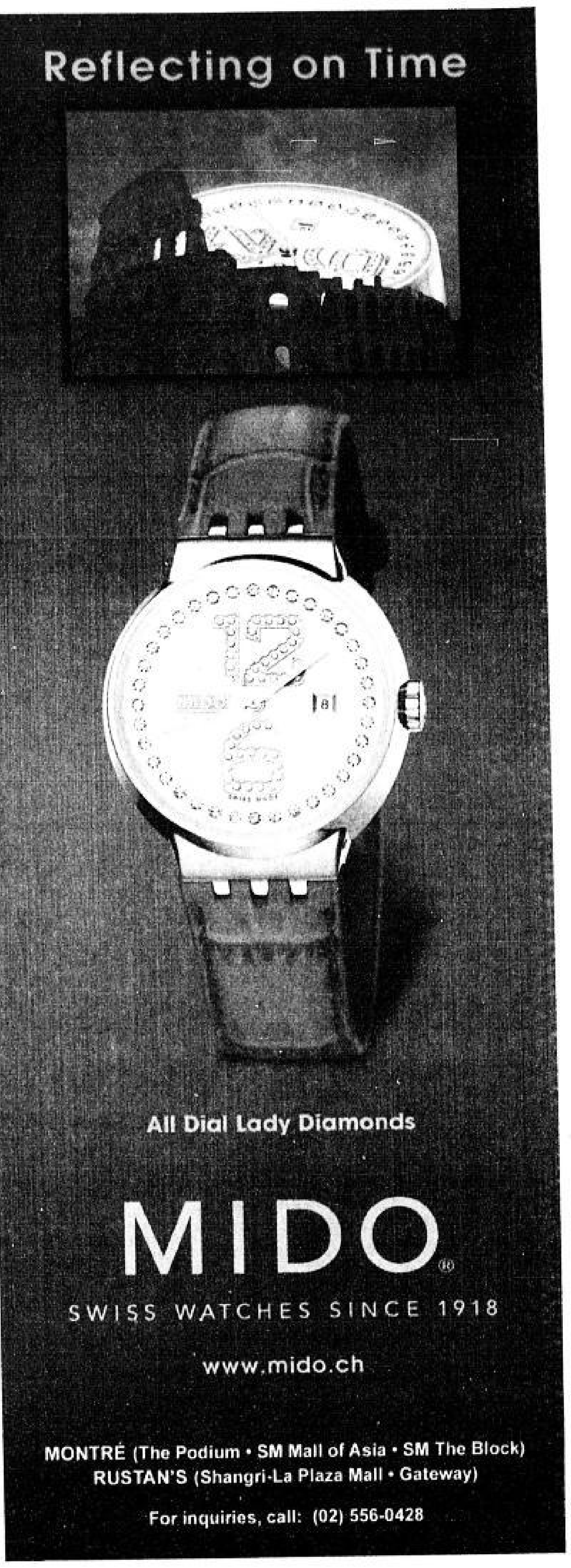
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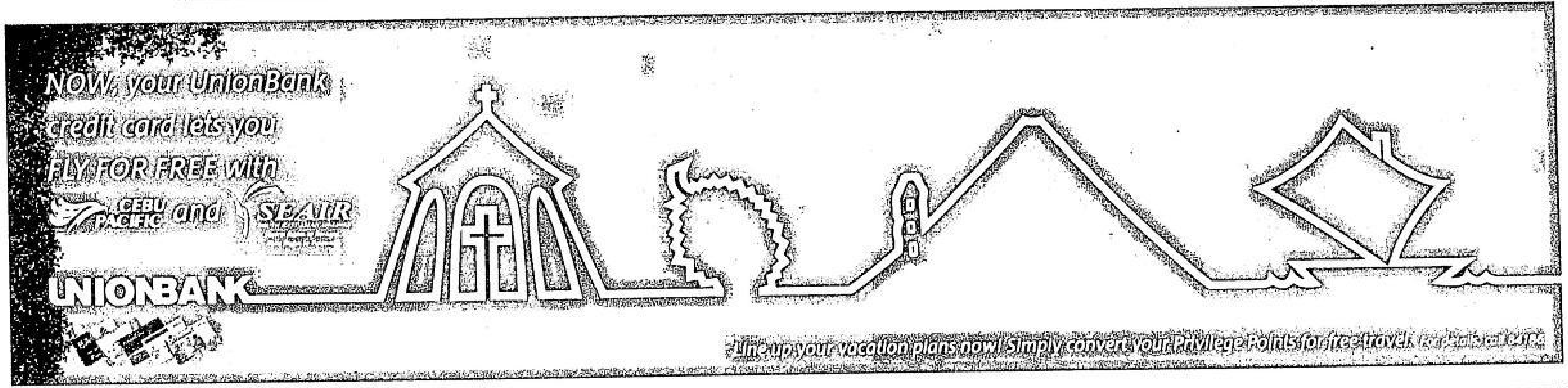
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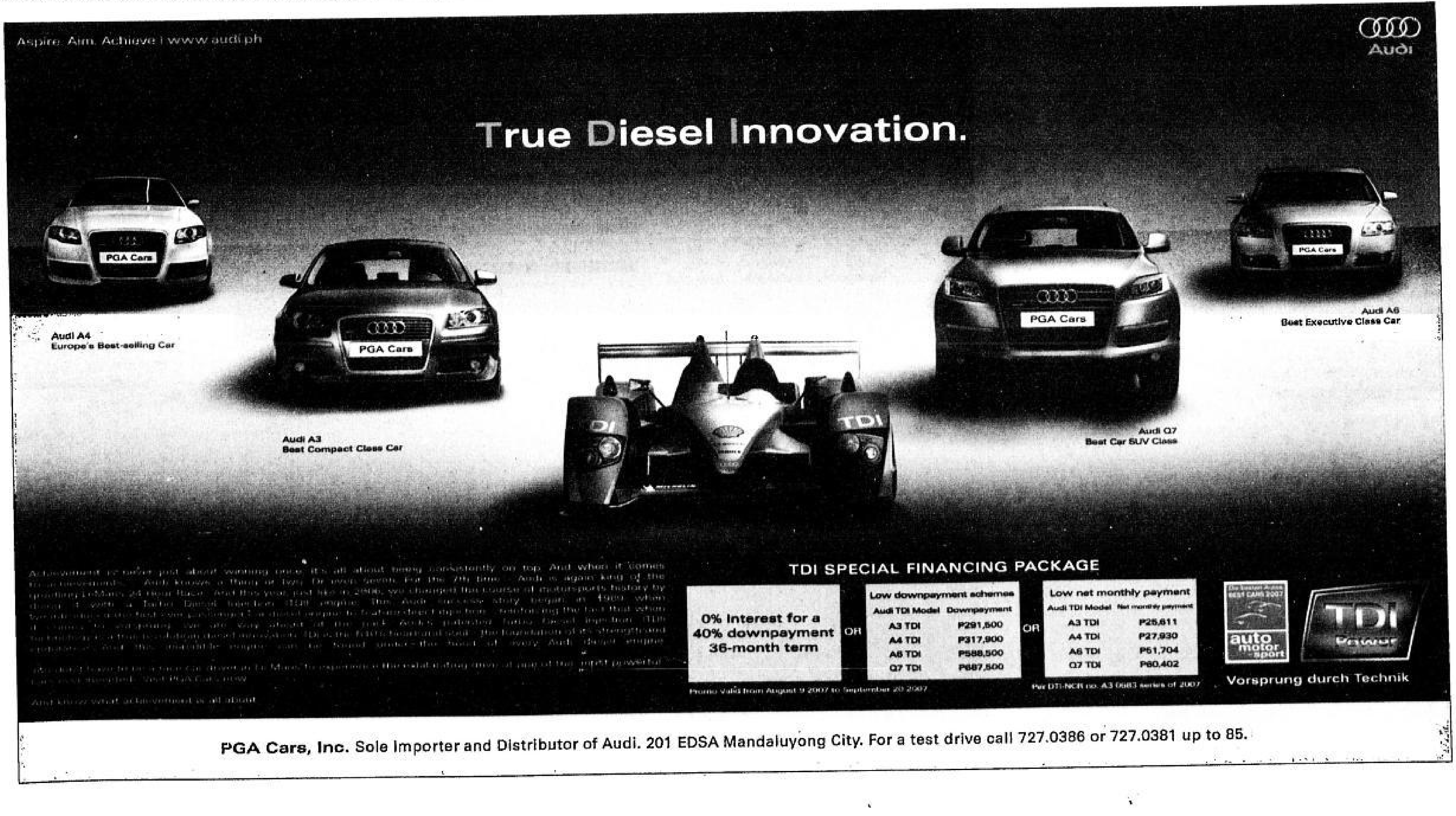
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RP picked for Nestlé shared service center

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THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY the Nestlé Group as the site for its shared service center for financial and employee services.

Nestlé Philippines announced this yesterday as it started preparing to set up the center, which will be known as Nestlé Business Services AOA (Asia, Oceania and Africa) or NBS.

NBS will serve the financial and employee service requirements of Nestlé companies in Zone AOA, covering the Philippines, Malaysia/Singapore, Indonesia, Indochina, Australia and New Zealand.

Financial services include account payables and receivables, and accounting operations. Employee services cover payroll, HR administration, time management and benefits administration.

In a statement, Nestlé Philippines chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore said the shared service center, which will be a separate entity from Nestlé Philippines Inc., was another demonstration of the Nestlé Group's continuing confidence in and commitment to support the long-term economic growth of the country.

He said the Nestlé Group had considered a number of countries as possible site for the center but had selected the Philippines because of talent availability and cost efficiency.

Nandkishore said the NBS, which is expected to create employment opportunities, was designed to deliver best-in-class office support at competitive service levels and costs to Nestlé companies in the region.

The Nestle Group has successfully implemented the shared service model in Europe and the Americas, resulting in maximized cost effectiveness, efficiency, and improved quality in financial and employee service transactions.

Nestlé said moving the financial and employee services transactions to the NBS would be done progressively, starting with Nestlé Philippines, which was expected to complete the transition of its financial services by the end of 2007 and its employee services by the end of the first quarter of 2008.

Employees who will be affected by this development will be provided with a separation package that is over and above what the law requires, and will also be considered in the new NBS organization. Safety net programs such as change and care workshops, livelihood seminars and outplacement services will likewise be made available to them.

The complete transition by the other Nestlé companies in the zone is expected by end of 2008.

Philex copper, gold output up

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FIRM PHILEX MINING CORP. said it had produced P1.06 billion worth of copper, gold and silver from its mining operations in Benguet in July, slightly up from month-ago's P1.04 billion.

In a disclosure, Philex reported that its production of copper reached 1.82 million kilograms; gold, 395,016 kg, and silver, 373,897 grams.

On Aug. 5, Philex shipped an initial P760 million worth of copper and gold. The shipment was composed of 2.8 million pounds of copper and 9,000 ounces of gold.

"The shipment was originally scheduled for lifting on or before end of July but was delayed due to a strong typhoon that earlier hit Japan," said Walter Brown, Philex chair and CEO.

Philex said a second shipment is scheduled also for this month.

The mining firm earlier said its net income more than doubled to P2.5 billion in the first half of the year, from last year's P1.2 billion. Profit in the second quarter was up to P1.5 billion from last year's P596 million.

Shares . . .

From page B1

Market expectations that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will keep its key interest rates unchanged at its policy-setting meeting later yesterday also boosted confidence that the economy remains fundamentally sound.

"With money supply growth decelerating and inflationary pressures at relatively benign levels, the central bank is unlikely to move, in our view, following its simplification of the tiered system in the last meeting," Morgan Stanley said in a note.

Among the big winners were recently battered blue chips such as index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rose P30 to P2,545, and Ayala Land, which was up 50 centavos at P14. Metrobank advanced P2.50 to P53. *AFP*

Boardroom liability

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

THE LATEST ACTION OF THE National Bureau of Investigation on the Michael Liew-PIPC investment scandal must be sending a chill down the spine of incorporators and directors of corporations.

The NBI recently filed with the Department of Justice a complaint for syndicated estafa against the top brass and key employees of Performance Investment Products Corp., a company registered in the British Virgin Islands, and PIPC Corp., a local company.

Contrary to the general impression, the "PIPC" in the local company is not an abbreviation of the name of the British Virgin Islands-based corporation. It stands for Philippine International Planning Center.

Unofficially, PIPC Corp. appears to have links with its namesake foreign corporation. Officially, however, it is a separate and distinct entity, at least as far as its registered name is concerned.

When PIPC applied for registration in 2000 under the name of Caravaggio Holdings Inc., five lawyers stood as its incorporators and initial directors.

These lawyers, plus the incumbent directors of PIPC and its employees, are included in the NBI complaint sheet.

Dummies

It is a common practice in our country for foreign investors to tap the services of local lawyers to act as incorporators of corporations they intend to use to engage in domestic business.

This arrangement is advantageous to multinational companies that are capital intensive, e.g., manufacturers of high-end products, operators of health clubs and distributors of specialized equipment, and would like to test the market first before they bring in their money.

Later, if the foreign investors think they can dispense with the lawyers' presence in the boardroom, the latter are replaced with directors of the owner's choice. Otherwise, the lawyers stay on as directors or become part of management.

Whether the practice of local lawyers acting as "dummies" for foreigners in the organization and registration of corporations violates the Anti-Dummy Law is yet to be tested in our courts.

Some lawyers who engage in this activity justify their action by saying it's part of their duty to provide legal services to their clients.

The contrary view is, there is nothing in the law which exempts lawyering from its coverage.

Liability

The NBI has accused the incumbent directors of PIPC of participation in the commission of fraudulent acts that led to the loss of the investors' money.

Under ordinary circumstances, directors do not interfere in the day-to-day operations of a corporation. They are limited to deciding on important policy matters. The implementation of the board's decisions is left to the line officers.

If, for any reason, corporate actions do not accomplish their intended results, the directors and officers cannot be held liable for the losses that the company or its stockholders may have suffered.

But the immunity from financial accountability does not cover acts done in excess of authority, in bad faith or with gross negligence.

Under the "business judgment" rule, directors and officers are presumed to always act in the best interests of the company and its stockholders.

However, this presumption is set aside if it can be shown that ill will, bad faith or gross negligence attended the decision-making or implementation process.

And if even if any of these circumstances are proven, the most that the executives can be held liable for is to pay damages to the company or stockholder, or both, for whatever losses may have been suffered.

In other words, the liability of the erring director or officer is civil, rather than penal, in character.

Criminal intent

But there is a caveat to this rule. It applies only to situations where the acts involved are not considered criminal offenses.

If they are, then the director or officer concerned has to face the consequences of his acts. His corporate status has no bearing on his innocence or culpability for the crime.

Concerted action to commit the crime of estafa is the crux of the NBI's complaint against the PIPC officials.

Under the law, the estafa committed by a syndicate consisting of five or more persons formed with the intention of carrying out an illegal act or transaction that results in the misappropriation of moneys contributed by stockholders, or of funds solicited by corporations from the general public shall be punished by life imprisonment.

To support its accusation, the NBI has submitted the affidavits of persons who claim they were hoodwinked by Michael Liew and the PIPC staff into investing their money in foreign exchange trading.

In determining the culpability of the incorporators and directors of the corporation, the Department of Justice panel that will evaluate the complaint has to examine closely the extent of their involvement, if any, in the acts that led to the alleged investment losses.

If the DOJ sustains the NBI's complaint, the respondents may find themselves behind bars during the trial if the evidence of guilt is strong because syndicated estafa is a capital crime.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)

CURRENCIES

August 23, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.738334	1.000000	46.7260
Japan	Yen	0.006407	0.008677	0.4054
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471353	1.992800	93.1156
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094570	0.128085	5.9849
Switzerland	Franc	0.612065	0.828981	38.7350
Canada	Dollar	0.694838	0.941088	43.9733
Singapore	Dollar	0.484249	0.655867	30.6460
Australia	Dollar	0.593612	0.803988	37.5671
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.958602	2.652731	123.9515
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.196858	0.266624	12.4583
Brunei	Dollar	0.482666	0.653723	30.5459
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000106	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022930	0.031056	1.4511
UAE	Dirham	0.201044	0.272294	12.7232
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.354400	63.2857
Korea	Won	0.000783	0.001060	0.0495
China	Yuan**	0.097149	0.131579	6.1482
ArgentinaPeso	0.233466	0.316206	14.7750	
Brazil	Real	0.366619	0.496549	23.2017
Denmark	Kroner	0.134423	0.182063	8.5071
India	Rupee	0.018110	0.024528	1.1461
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212165	0.287356	13.4270
Mexico	New Peso	0.066893	0.090600	4.2334
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516390	0.699399	32.6801
South Africa	Rand	0.102137	0.138334	6.4638
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022380	0.030312	1.4164

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Aug. 22, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Aug. 22, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 23, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.5	87,000
73	33	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	59	60.5	58.5	59.5	1,673,900
73.5	51.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	60.5	61.5	60.5	60.5	1,378,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	825	830	825	830	1,380
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	510,000
75.5	37	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	52.5	54	52.5	53	12,032,600
65.5	32.5	Philippine National Bank	46	47	45.5	47	418,900
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	500
39.57	14.35	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.75	25.5	24.5	25	8,445,600
90	47	Security Bank Corp.	71	72.5	70	72.5	702,700
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	53.5	55	53.5	54	150,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	104,000
2.04	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.84	1.94	23,310,000
16.25	1.84	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	757,200
8.8	4	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.9	2,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	430,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	41	41	41	41	5,000
1,725.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,705.00	1,705.00	1,705.00	1,705.00	290
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.25	3,902,000
1,005.00	219	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	760	780	755	780	8,920
2,250.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,160.00	2,170.00	2,160.00	2,170.00	610
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	784,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.95	15,571,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.27	2,000,000
70	42	First Gen Corp.	64	64.5	61.5	62.5	227,000
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	80	80.5	78	78	1,273,300
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.25	14.5	13.5	13.75	2,942,500
116	15.75	Manila Electric Co. "A"	95	99.5	94.5	94.5	176,800
118	25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	98	102	95	95.5	3,097,300
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	15,794,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.4	9,058,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.7	7.9	7.6	7.9	123,000
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	91,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.9	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	39,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.06	3,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	24	24	24	5,000
61	31.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53	52.5	52.5	316,100
9	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	8.9	9	118,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.54	1.6	1.54	1.6	57,000
4.05	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.14	2.18	2.14	2.18	7,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	62	63	61	62	59,800
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	63	63.5	62.5	63.5	816,300
0.66	0.22	Swift Foods Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	380,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	5,522,300
0.55	0.2	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	60,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.57	EEI Corp.	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	4,683,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.5	1,707,000
9.2	4.5	Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.8	6.3	5.8	6.3	7,908,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4	4.15	4	4	1,813,000
.2	0.27	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1	1.02	0.93	0.98	11,860,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.25	5,226,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.085	Picop Resources Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	25,780,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0825	0.09	0.0825	0.0875	44,500,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.62	0.64	0.61	0.61	33,540,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.05	3.4	2.85	3.2	9,272,000
3.7	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.15	3.7	2.95	3.7	3,228,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	55,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.6	11,693,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	27,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	4.45	4.55	4.4	4.55	17,026,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2	2.06	1.96	2.04	3,524,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,000
590	345.83	Ayala Corp.	465	472.5	452.5	457.5	247,960
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12	12	12	12	100
5.8	1.06	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.35	4.55	4.35	4.4	26,750,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	4,321,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.5	2,893,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.8	1.98	1.8	1.98	502,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	280,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.88	1.6	1.76	1,654,000
11.5	0.33	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.8	8,492,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	158,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.4	5,730,000
452.5	206.2	SM Investments Corp.	350	362.5	345	352.5	236,360
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.35	40,200,000
1.6	0.85	South China Resources Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	15	15.25	15	15.25	49,900
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.34	0.35	9,810,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.2	1.32	1.2	1.32	295,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.9	121,000
19.25	10.83	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	14	14	7,402,300
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.14	3,842,000
4.7	2.18	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.65	4	3.65	4	1,595,000
2.1	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp."B"	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
3.83	1.33	City and Land Developers Inc.	3	3	3	3	2,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.65	1,120,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.43	2,860,000
0.99	0.46	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.7	23,830,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.235	24,700,000
1.48	0.4	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.04	1.1	13,772,000
2.44	1.07	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	57,284,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.31	400,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.58	0.61	1,420,000
4.4	1.56	Megaworld Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.4	28,930,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.6	3.85	3.6	3.85	249,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.34	1,150,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.41	0.45	0.41	0.42	6,120,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	74,000
23	12	Robinson Land Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	4,799,400
5.9	1.37	SM Development Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.55	3.6	2,972,000
13.5	6.08	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11	14,003,400
3.25	0.8	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	200,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.57	0.63	0.57	0.6	8,340,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	25,110,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	10,805,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	31	31.5	110,800
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.5	9.8	9.5	9.7	823,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.22	4,296,000
1,445.00	970	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,330.00	1,340.00	1,305.00	1,310.00	120,230
2,820.00	1,890.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,550.00	2,560.00	2,540.00	2,545.00	223,260
7.9	3.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8	2,259,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	15,930,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.6	10.5	9.6	10.5	21,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.9	9.1	8.8	9	1,751,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	103,900,000
2.9	1.6	Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.72	1.72	450,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.19	157,170,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	242,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.48	2.7	2,846,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	2.95	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	80,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	1,129,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.66	315,000
2.04	0.99	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.5	1.5	2,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.52	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3	3	2.85	3	1,149,000
0.98	0.28	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.55	0.58	0.52	0.58	8,710,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	1,850,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	10,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	87,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.15	4.2	362,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11	12.25	11	12.25	398,000
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	13.5	14	13	13.25	2,148,300
150	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	150	150	150	150	300
		MINING					
0.018	0.008	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	133,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.15	4.75	4.15	4.75	124,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	31,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	13	2,607,400
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.56	1.64	1.54	1.58	182,500,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.225	6,100,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	730,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	111,000,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	31,500,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	11.25	12.5	10.75	11.75	5,318,400
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	276,300,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.4	7,722,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	27	28	27	28	54,500
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.89	0.92	0.89	0.92	390,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.16	1.28	1.14	1.26	9,623,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.36	0.39	7,560,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	303,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	52,800,000
13	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	13,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	514,000,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	862.82 UP	20.71	54,706,000	1,192,336,770.00
Industrial	4,500.25 UP	127.38	116,714,400	999,951,120.00
Holding Firms	1,795.51 UP	48.31	320,559,420	691,722,060.00
Property	1,471.24 UP	70.86	241,456,100	661,880,830.00
Service	1,534.52 UP	16.99	548,341,490	912,456,160.00
Mining & Oil	5,418.32 UP	432.01	1,644,473,300	467,556,310.00
All Shares Index	2,064.52 UP	55.12		
PSEi	3,229.15 UP	89.69		
	GRAND TOTALS		2,926,250,710	4,925,903,250.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

BSP keeps interest rates steady

Regulator maintains key overnight borrowing rate at 6%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPinas has decided to keep its key interest rates unchanged at 6 percent after yesterday's meeting.

"In its decision to maintain policy settings, the Monetary Board considered the benign inflation outlook and noted that the balance of risks to future inflation has remained essentially unchanged," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a briefing after the policy-making body's board meeting.

He noted that the growth of broad money supply had moderated in May and June.

"Rainfall conditions have normalized for most of Luzon and the approved wage hike for National Capital Region is not expected to generate additional inflationary pressures," Tetangco said.

TETANGCO

Tetangco likewise said demand pressures, while on an uptrend, continued to be limited.

"The relatively firm peso serves to temper price pressures. Inflation expectations also remain subdued, suggesting that markets are confident about the BSP's anti-inflation resolve," the BSP chief said.

Tetangco said the board also discussed the recent turmoil in the global financial markets and reaffirmed its previous assessment that this would have a limited impact on the domestic financial system.

He was referring to the troubles hounding the subprime market in the United States.

Reports of defaults on housing loans to this sector has scared investors away from the equities market, but many have come back after the US Federal Reserve cut its discount rate.

"Going forward, the BSP will continue to closely monitor monetary and financial developments to ensure price stability and sustained growth of the economy," he said.

Last month, the central bank slashed its headline overnight borrowing rate by 150 basis points to 6 percent—the first cut in four years—and scrapped a tiered interest rate scheme.

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	August 17, 2007	August 13, 2007
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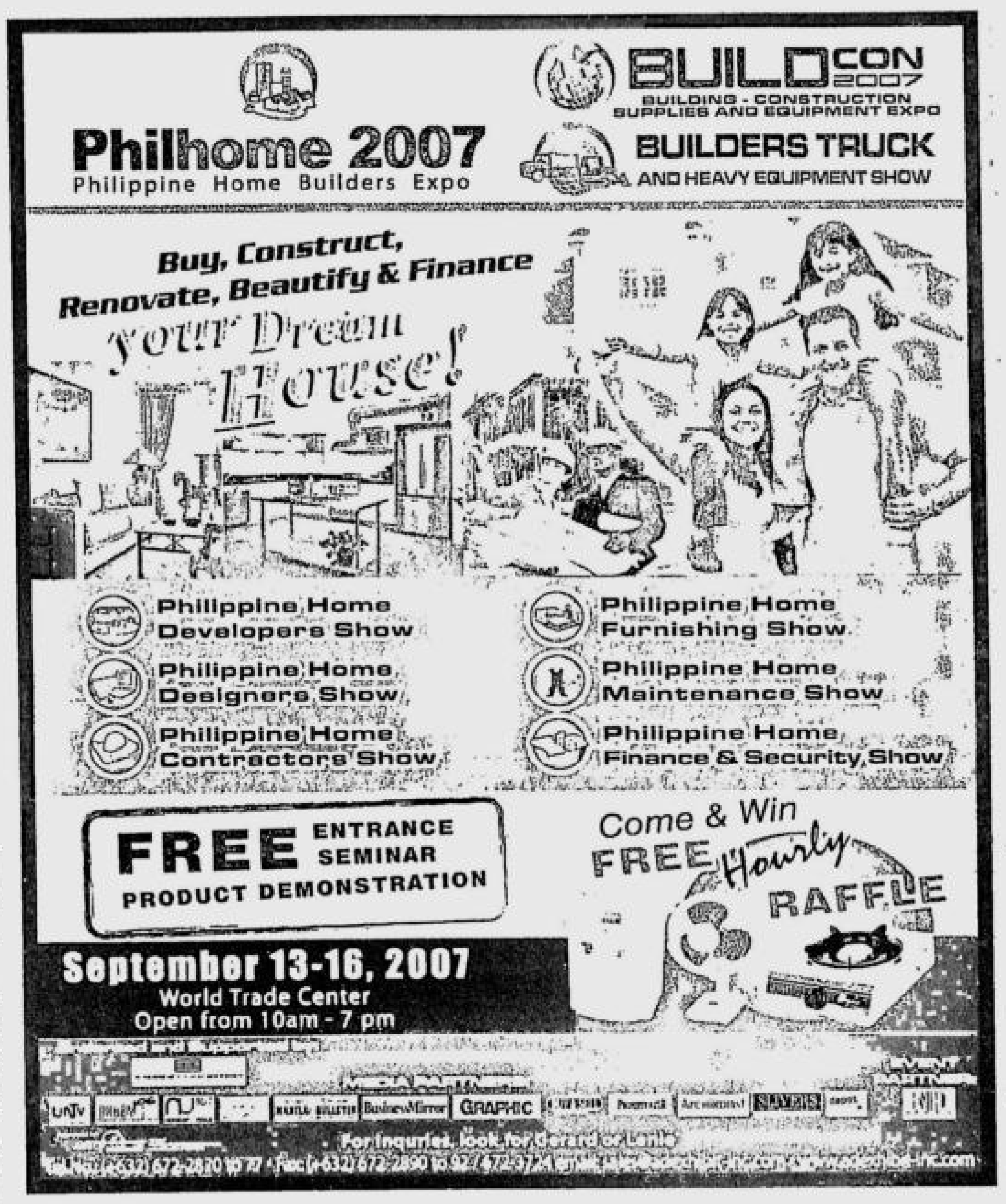
Balanced Fund	1.347278	1.420456
Equity Fund	1.491116	1.666282

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.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Fitch says Asian banks can weather US credit crisis, but face other risks

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL CREDIT WATCHDOG Fitch Ratings has ruled out any systemic risk for banks in the Asia-Pacific arising from the US subprime mortgage crisis, but has warned of other risks arising from poor market sentiment and low liquidity.

In a statement, the London-based credit rating agency said it had reviewed the exposures of most of its rated Asia-Pacific banks to US subprime-backed structured securities and found that direct exposures were low, generally amounting to just a small percentage of the investing bank's equity capital.

"Losses on such investments will put a dent in annual earnings but do not pose a systemic risk as they are not a serious threat to the soundness of the banks we have surveyed," said David Marshall, managing director and head of Fitch's Financial Institutions Group in Asia-Pacific.

The possibility of loan defaults in the US' subprime housing sector has shaken the market and caused share prices to dive across the globe.

Moves by central banks from Europe to Japan and the United States to calm the credit market have eased the nervousness, helping share prices to recover some lost ground.

The subprime sector covers borrowers with a poor credit history.

But given the volatility in credit markets, Fitch warned of other risks faced by Asian banks.

"They may have to book accounting losses on marking to market other structured products, whose market values may be depressed by poor market sentiment and low liquidity," Fitch said.

"However, if they continue to hold the securities, these accounting losses should eventually be reversed and the banks should incur significant economic losses only if there is a material change in the default and loss rates on asset classes, other than on securities backed by US subprime mortgage exposures," it explained.

Splash income soars 1,445% on strong sales

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BEAUTY PRODUCTS MAKER Splash Corp. said its net income surged 1,445 percent to P158.05 million in the first semester from P10.23 million in the same period a year ago.

In a statement, the company said it posted a 17-percent improvement in gross sales to P1.74 billion in the first half due to new product introductions in the early part of the year.

The company said it saw hefty growth in its "Biolink VCO" brand, a hot oil treatment that is a substitute to hair conditioners, hair dye brand, "Kolours" and facial cleanser, "Extract."

Operating expenses declined 13 percent to P514.82 million in the first half versus the P593.81 million recorded the year before.

This led to an increase in operating income of 613 percent to P168.31 million in the first half from P23.61 million from 2006 levels.

Splash Corporation, a Filipino-owned personal care manufacturing and marketing company, competes in the following product categories: Skin, naturals, hair and health and wellness.

Splash and some of its product lines—Extraderm, Maxi-peel, Biolink, SkinWhite—continue to dominate the local personal care industry.

Its exfoliant subcategory consisting of Extraderm and Maxi-peel has an 86-percent market share while Skin White and Biolink dominate the skin-whitening subcategory with a 41 percent of the market.

Boosted by robust first half results, Splash vice president Noel P. Manucom said that the company was looking forward to a successful initial public offer (IPO) in October or November this year.

Splash plans to raise some P2.5 billion from the proposed sale of shares.

Splash plans to offer between 20 to 30 percent of its capital to the public in a domestic offering.

It is tapping First Metro Investment Corp. and SB Capital as underwriters.

Gov't to bid out . . .

From page B3

been commissioned in 1956 and 1960, respectively.

Ambuklao's three 25-MW generating units have been under preservation, or have not been operating, since 2000.

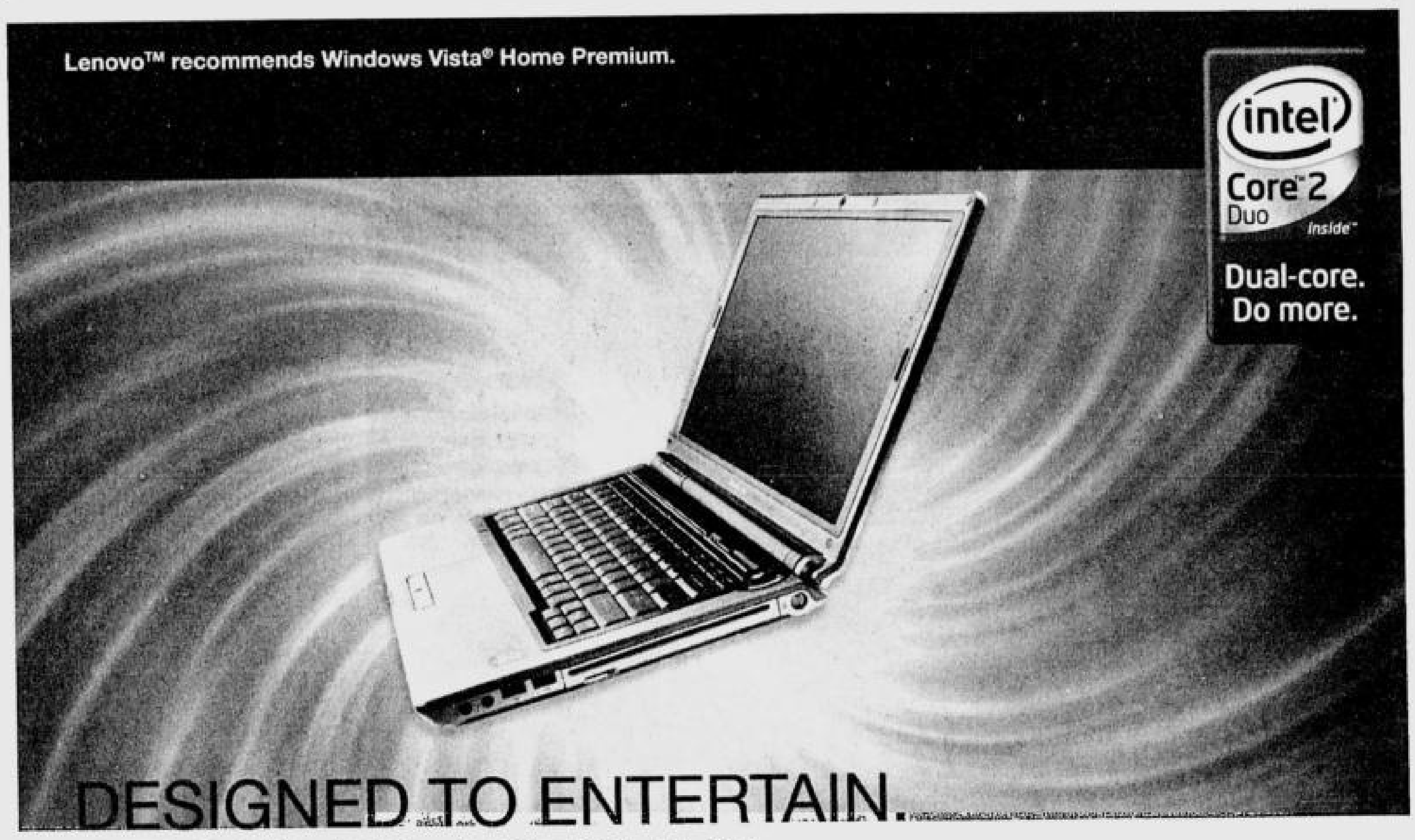
The Binga plant remains in operation. With its four 25-MW generators, it can operate as a baseload plant during high water levels or as a peaking plant during low water levels. It can also provide ancillary services.

The Ambuklao and Binga complexes run along the upper portion of Luzon's longest waterway, the Agno River.

Binga, which is located in Itogon, Benguet, lies 19 kilometers downstream of the Ambuklao plant in Bokod town, also in Benguet.

The national government can expect between $5 billion and $7 billion from the privatization of key energy sector assets and stakes this year, including National Power Corp.'s generation facilities, the National Transmission Corp. concession and the remaining 40-percent stake of the government in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in an earlier interview that from the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake alone, the government could generate between P32 billion and P36 billion. This amount will be used to finance the government's remaining expenditure program, as well as reduce the budget deficit to a maximum level of P63 billion.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BUSINESS *Friday*

Volunteers helped build Cagayan de Oro's leading food firm

SLERS employs almost 100 workers and indirectly provides jobs to hundreds more who retail their meat products.

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Contributor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—"THAT'S A difficult question," replied Mercedes Pelaez-Mejia, franchise director of SLERS Industries Inc., when asked about the best business advice they got from Canadian business experts who volunteered to help small- and medium-scale enterprises prop up their ventures.

SLERS, a local food company, is a two-time recipient of a project grant from the Canadian Executive Services Organization-Business Advisory Project (CESO-BAP), a program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The business advisory project focuses on helping SMEs, like SLERS, bring in the profit by providing it with intensive, hands-on business training from retired business executives, who volunteer for CESO.

"The first time we were visited, they gave us technical advice on production efficiency. We really needed that because at that time we were setting up a bigger factory for our meat products," Mejia said.

Then a year later, a retired executive of the company that makes the Campbell soup came over.

"He taught us the value of marketing. That I think was the best advice we got, because from that time on, we were on our way to expansion," she said.

Mejia said the volunteer was really hands on in trying to help SLERS become more successful.

"He ate with us, slept in our house, he was with us almost 24 hours a day," Mejia said.

In return, the company owners treated him like a family member.

"Like he was one of the owners of the company," she said, adding that as a family-run business, each member of the family works hard for the company.

Humble beginnings

Before it became a household name in Cagayan de Oro, SLERS was the idea of an enterprising mother, who just needed extra cash for her children's needs.

Way back in the '60s, the home of the Pelaez family would be filled with the mouth-watering aroma of a smoked country ham.

Mommy Fely, the family matriarch, would be seen scuttling in her kitchen, checking her kiln and glazing her much-loved ham with secret ingredients that she will later hand down to her children.

Weeks before Christmas in 1969, Mommy Fely found herself accepting bulk orders from family and friends, who wanted to give out her ham as special gifts or have it as the centerpiece of the Noche Buena celebrations.

This became the start of a successful cottage industry that Mommy Fely set up.

She chose the brand name SLERS for her popular meat products, which is really made up of the letters of her children's names.

Soon enough, Mommy Fely opened a small processing plant for her meat products. The company began with only 10 workers at the plant, while the Pelaez children helped out in distributing the products to customers.

FRANCHISER's Touch award went to SLERS because of its 'Pica-pica' stores.

Today, SLERS directly employs 100 workers and counts three major outlets in the city.

Showcase

"It was all hard work for the family," Mejia said of the growth that their company posted over the years. "And also because we listened to advice," she quickly added.

The CESO-BAP was introduced to SLERS by the Department of Trade and Industry.

CESO-BAP partners with both public and private entities to identify its beneficiary SME.

Aside from the DTI, it also closely works with the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) to achieve its primary goal of addressing the needs of SMEs, with a long-term vision of job creation and poverty reduction.

"We were lucky to have been chosen to be one of the recipient companies," said Mejia, who played host to the two retired Canadian business executives who came one after the other.

"SLERS is one of our best accomplishments," Snoogie Apolinario, CESO-BAP project information officer, said.

Apolinario closely monitored the impact of CESO-BAP to the company's maturity.

"We considered SLERS as a showcase in improving production efficiency of SMEs," Apolinario said.

According to its semi-annual project report, BAP provided assistance in niche marketing and distribution to SMEs like SLERS.

Prior to the deployment of chosen experts from Canada, the project evaluated the industry. The results of this evaluation determined what expertise a venture needs.

Then the business experts are fielded in.

The knowledge and experience of the Canadian volunteer should be appropriate to the industry where he or she will be deployed. The project funds the fare and allowance of the volunteer while the project beneficiary is responsible for his/her board and lodging.

"We ask the entrepreneur to accommodate the volunteer in their homes. That's their counterpart in the project. That way, the trainee and the trainor will have enough time to interact and exchange ideas," Apolinario said.

"In the case of SLERS, we saw a great leap in market development and sales when it adopted the aggressive sales and marketing strategy prescribed by our experts," he said.

Among the bold moves adopted by the company was the infusion of P1 million for its plant expansion, specifically for its *chicharon* production.

It also set up an Express Meals kiosk, where' its meat products were sold—cooked or uncooked.

Best advice

"We eventually went into franchising and was successful in it," Mejia said.

She said they followed what the volunteer expert had told them about—the best means to bring out SLERS products to the market is by setting up franchise stores.

"We called the franchise stalls 'Pica-pica' and, aside from our famous chicharon, we also introduced ready-to-eat nuts and sweets," she said.

SLERS franchise stores were very successful that the company won the Franchiser's Touch award given by the Association of Filipino Franchisers last year.

In answer to what makes a business really successful, Mejia said: "Sales do bring in the profit. And it's still all about marketing. Customers should be able to easily find your products. How can you sell when you don't bring your products out?"

SAMPLES of export-quality wooden lunch boxes made by Taisun of Taiwan.

Big bucks from wooden lunch boxes

Text and Photos by Chris V. Panganiban
Inquirer Mindanao

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN del Sur—Throw away that environmentally destructive styrofoam lunch boxes and be eco-friendly.

A woodworking and furniture company put up by Taiwanese investors and a local cooperative is setting up a P10-million wood processing plant that will initially export wooden lunch boxes to the United States.

Officials of Taisun Furniture Industry Corp. and Woodworkers Cooperative Diwata Training Center are keeping their fingers crossed the one-hectare plant can sustain the supply for the global demand for lunch boxes made of planted softwood species like *falcatta*, which are abundant in this timber-rich province.

The plant situated inside the resort and farm house of Romeo Perez, president of the cooperative in Barangay San Isidro, is expected to be finished within this year after the groundbreaking rites last Aug. 10.

Workers' training

Wu Shion Chin, president of Taisun, said modern equipment on wood working processing will be brought from his country and they were expecting to train at least 100 workers on the technology to produce export quality lunch boxes.

Already, Wu said in Washington DC alone, his business contacts have asked him if they can produce at least one million pieces of lunch boxes a day to supply the needs of shopping malls, restaurants, hotels and even condominiums.

High demand

He said the demand for wooden lunch boxes is so high that his US contacts are offering him P3 a piece.

The use of wooden lunch boxes to replace plastics and polystyrene or commonly known as styrofoam is now the trend among American consumers and in other first world countries in the wake of growing awareness on the use of biodegradable materials.

Styrofoam and plastics are reportedly two of the biggest contributors to global warming.

Incentives needed

Perez has urged Gov. Ma. Valentina Plaza to help in developing the wood industry in the province by instituting programs and policies that will encourage more tree farmers to plant softwood tree species.

He said organized tree farmers have been urging the government to provide them incentives by liberalizing the cutting, processing and transport of their products through the deregulation of planted tree species.

Perez said another drawback why the tree farming industry in the province did not develop is a provincial ordinance that slaps taxes to every planted tree harvested by tree farmers.

There are 32,596 hectares developed by tree farmers out of the total of 435,970 hectares considered by the provincial government as production forest.

Agusan del Sur remains one of the biggest suppliers of planted tree species in the country with more than 500,000 cubic meters going out of the province each month.

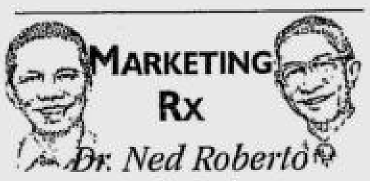
Perez said the establishment of a wood processing plant that will not only make lunch boxes but other wood-based products for export will significantly increase revenues of the local government considering the potential dollar earnings.

Technology transfer

Perez said the joint venture will eventually embark on a community-based woodworking and furniture production where they will set up smaller wood processing machines in the villages and transfer the technology to the residents themselves so they could cope with the projected demand for their product.

"With this joint venture project, the province will no longer be just a mere supplier of raw wood materials but producer of world-class finished wood products," Plaza said.

How long will it take before a 'mature' brand dies?



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

Q: LET'S ASSUME THAT there is no problem with the product quality of our analgesic brand. Can the evaluation of our brand's positioning alone prevent or stop this heritage brand from "dying"? Or can our brand's maintenance of its heritage positioning arrest its sales decline just because it's now perceived to have reached maturity in its product life cycle? Until when can it hold on?

A: We should start with the broader issue in your three related questions and that's with regard to "product life cycle."

In the pain relief market, it's obvious that your analgesic brand is not the analgesic category. This clarification is needed because the phenomenon of the product life cycle applies to the product category and not to a brand or any brand in the category where you belong, i.e., the analgesic category. You can easily confirm and validate this by looking at your brand's sales history over the past 20 or even just its past 10 years. You'll see how irregular its sales' time series ups and downs are. The curve that that sales' time series defines is far or very far from the clear S-curve sales pattern of the analgesic category. The S-curve is the usual shape of your product life cycle.

The exception to this, of course, is when the brand is the category such as what you find in a monopoly or near monopoly. So this should correct and put aside your two last questions. We now only need to answer your first question regarding positioning of a "heritage" brand.

A heritage brand

The marketing literature does not have a standard definition of what may be considered a heritage brand. So what marketing practice has done is to define it denotatively, that is, by enumerating cases. That's why sometimes we hear marketers referring to "Colgate," "Xerox" and "Kleenex" as heritage brands because for a long time, each was equated with the product category where each belonged. Colgate referred to toothpaste and toothpaste is Colgate. Xerox is as generic as a copier, and a copier and Xerox were used interchangeably. And in the case of Kleenex, consumers referred to the brand name when they bought a box of tissue paper.

We also sometimes hear marketing practitioners tell us that "Volvo" is a heritage brand because it has come to own for the longest time the car attribute of safety. In the analgesic category where your brand belongs, "Biogesic" is counted as a heritage brand. That's because pain relief seeking consumers have for years till today closely associated it with the attribute, safe … "even for pregnant women." We take it that this is the meaning of heritage brand that you have in mind.

Now to your question. When will a heritage brand die? How can its heritage positioning prevent it from dying?

For the sake of simplifying our analysis, let's understand your question as associating the death of a heritage brand with the death of its heritage positioning. Therefore, it's asking: "When will a heritage positioning die? How can we prevent that death?"

The death of a brand

It makes good marketing sense to say that when the heritage positioning ceases to motivate consumers, then its life also ends. This can happen in two significant ways. So there are two major sources of death.

The first of these is when the heritage positioning attribute has come to be equally claimed by competitors and consumers favorably respond by generalizing the attribute across all the competing brands. As we've explained in a previous column, this renders and reduces the formerly motivating heritage attribute to become a minimum requirement attribute. Maslow's principle of motivation says a minimum requirement attribute will no longer motivate: "A satisfied need no matter how important to consumers that need may be, will not motivate." If the heritage positioning can no longer motivate and you stick to it, you start losing your consumers and death will come in a matter of time.

The second way death will come to the heritage positioning attribute is when it no longer resonates with the target consumers' priority product value or need. This sounds similar to the minimum requirement case but not the same. Consumers may have just placed the heritage positioning attribute at a lower priority level.

To appreciate this, go back to the analgesic attribute of "safe." At one time, in the 1970s and 1980s, "safe" was a priority value below the top priority attribute of "efficacy." While Biogesic as the owner of "safe" was a major participating brand in the analgesic category then, it was not the market leader. Then in the 1990s and up to the present, the analgesic consumers' priorities reversed. The top priority now is "safe" while "efficacy" went down second place. That should explain why Biogesic is now at the top of best-selling analgesics.

So as long as "safe" remains a top consumer priority and as long as consumers continue to strongly and uniquely associate the heritage positioning attribute of "safe" with Biogesic, this heritage brand will enjoy a long, long life. It also helped a lot when its advertising campaign reworded the adjective "safe" to the action verb word, "*ingat*."

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-3145412. God bless!

FMF DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
3/F ALPAP I Building, 140 L.P. Leviste Street,
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Tel. Nos. 817-1180 to 81 Fax No. 840-4549

DIVIDEND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Company declared a cash dividend of P 0.15 per share to all stockholders of record as of August 13, 2007 and payable on August 30, 2007.

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO V. SAN JOSE**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Aug. 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Philippine Duplicators, Inc. Collector's Receipt Nos. **94638-94650** given to Mr. Rexy Janoy were lost last August 13, 2007. Any transaction covered by those CR#s shall not be honored by the company.

Philippine Duplicators, Inc.
CCC Bldg., Leviste Ave.,
South Superhighway, Parañaque City

(PDI - Aug. 24 & 25, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
12 Months Lease Rental of 4 Units Armored Vehicle for Various LBP Branches: • 1 Unit Six (6) Wheeler (for Batac Branch) • 3 Units Four (4) Wheeler (for Lipa, Cabanatuan and Tarlac Branches)	P1,236,000.00 3,600,000.00	September 6, 2007 10:00 AM	September 19, 2007 1:00 PM	P 2,500.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department starting August 24, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at Procurement Department Bidding Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-0000 locals 2290 & 2293.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI–August 24, 2007)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Creba annual convention

REAL ESTATE EXperts and insiders will converge from Oct. 25-27 in Cebu City for the 2007 Creba National convention. The meet aims to explore new possibilities and to find ways to sustain the impressive growth that the real estate industry had shown so far.

The 2007 Creba Convention Committee is chaired by Editha Manansala, VP-Public Affairs of Creba, Inc and Architect Steve Olonan of Starland Properties, Inc. serving as Vice-Chair. Creba President Pete Tario, Techie Bautista, Jimmy Cura, and Eugene Yu provides support.

UCPB Savings

UCPB SAVINGS BANK ADVISORY

To the heirs of deceased stockholders of former **UNITED SAVINGS BANK, UNITED EASTERN SAVINGS BANK, INC., UNITED MINDORO SAVINGS BANK, INC., UNITED BICOL SAVINGS BANK, INC.**, and **DOMESTIC SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.**, (now known collectively as **UCPB SAVINGS BANK**) and former **UCPB RURAL BANK** (now similarly known as **UCPB SAVINGS BANK**), the following are the requirements for the issuance of new certificates of shares of stock in your names, as replacement of the existing certificates of stock issued in the name of your deceased loveones:

1) Affidavit of Transfer to be executed by every legal heir/transferee in accordance with CB CIRCULAR NO. 787
2) Proof of Citizenship of the transferee/s (any of the following):
   a) Birth Certificate
   b) Driver's license
   c) Marriage Contract/Passport
   d) Voter's, SSS, GSIS ID
3) Death Certificate of stockholder
4) Duly notarized Affidavit of Heirship or other related documents with quitclaim or waiver of rights of other heirs, as the case may be.
5) BIR-Estate Tax Clearance
6) Original stock certificate/s

For inquiries, please get in touch with any branch of **UCPB SAVINGS BANK** located nearest your residence.

(Sgd.) Atty. **JOSE A. BARCELON**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--August 24 & 26, 2007)

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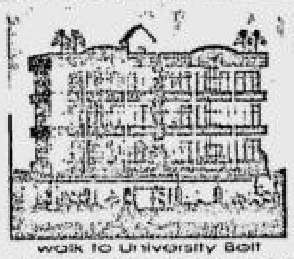

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DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: 925-47-93 to 97
Email: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
on the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) for the Proposed Isabela Nickel Mining Project

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the proposed Isabela Nickel Mining Project to attend a Public Hearing scheduled on September 22, 2007 @ 10:00 AM at Municipal Gymnasium, Dinapigue, Isabela.

This Public Hearing will be conducted concerning the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned Project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman Quezon City c/o Ms. Esperanza A. Sajul, OIC-Chief, Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Division or with the Environmental Management Bureau Region II (Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley) at telephone number (078) 844-4321, prior to the said hearing.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB/EMB Region II on or before September 22, 2007.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Mr. Ernesto B. Villalva at telephone nos. (02) 920-2240 to 41 or email at emb@emb.gov.ph.

(PDI – August 24 & 31, 2007)

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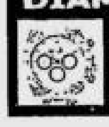

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OBITUARIES

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2 Corinthians 5:8

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On her Twenty-Second Death Anniversary

PURIFICACION CONJARES DE JESUS

(Lucena City)
BEST MOTHER
June 11, 1911 – August 24, 1985

Her children: LILIA & BENHUR, CLODUALDO & CAROLINA, MA. TERESA & RICARDO, grandchildren: NINGNING & ALFRED, CLAUDE & OLIVE, TOTI & ELAINE, OLIVER, LORALIE & FLORIO, and great-grandchildren: MICKEY, MARTY, REDD and DINGDONG, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.
Masses will be offered at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church at Cordillera St., Q.C. and Holy Redeemer Church at 6:00 A.M.

DIGNA MALLARY AGANON

Peacefully joined our Lord on 22 August 2007.

Her loving husband Marcelino "Bogs" G. Aganon, Jr.; children Bogsie, Bea, Angelique and Enzo; mother Beatriz P. Concepcion; mother-in-law Pacita G. Aganon; brothers and sister; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces; other relatives and friends most kindly request the readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence at I-A J. Delgado Street, BF Homes, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

After the Mass at 8:00 a.m. on 26 August 2007, her remains will be brought for cremation at the Funeraria Paz Crematory, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; thereafter, her ashes will be placed at The Garden of Resurrection, St. Peter Parish, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

CORAZON SALCEDA DOLZ

Peacefully joined the Lord on August 21, 2007 at the age of 70.

Her children, **Luz & Tito Malapit, Eva & Dante (†), Sadie Leo & Editha Lim, Nanette & Louie Golez** and **Benjie & Mae Sta. Teresa**; her loving grandchildren **Ferdie & Ianne, Lea, Mia, Maan, Diana, Pj, Jp, Ghjan, Dauline, Jn, Dan Rey, Lian, John Rey, Sarah, Jessie, Isaiah, Micah, Ben** relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Inc., inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on August 26, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

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BUSINESS

Governors push for Jpepa approval

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS yesterday threw their support behind the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, saying the pact would create growth opportunities in their constituencies, especially in the retirement market, ecotourism and trade.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, who is also executive vice president and spokesperson of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, said in a statement the group hoped that the Senate would approve the Jpepa soon.

"Just imagine the benefits to any province if we could plug into this huge retirement market. I hope our senators will pave this way for many local communities through the Jpepa," he said.

Reyes noted that Japan was the country's third-largest source of tourism traffic and the biggest source of foreign direct investment.

He said tourism was widely acknowledged as a powerful driver of economic growth, with one arrival usually generating 1.4 jobs.

The governor cited a study on the Jpepa made by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), which showed that tourism and retirement services would distribute income to the countryside and provide career opportunities for returning overseas Filipino workers.

Other LPP officials like Camarines Sur's Luis Raymond Villafuerte Jr. said it was high time the Senate ratified the agreement since concerns had been addressed.

"As far as we know, consultations were made with both the academe and the private sector while negotiations were ongoing it was also discussed in the Senate last year," he said.

Agri growth seen slowing to 2% in '07 due to dry spell

UA&P director cites delays in planting, harvest

By Amy R. Remo

THE GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURE sector is seen slowing down to only 2 percent this year due to the extended dry spell that delayed planting and harvests.

"We would be lucky if we can hit this conservative target. We had originally set our target at 3 to 4 percent but revised it due to recent events," said Rolando Dy, executive director of the Center for Food and Agribusiness at the University and the Asia Pacific.

The Department of Agriculture, on the other hand, had earlier set the full-year growth target this year at 4-5 percent.

On the sidelines of the Good News Kapihan yesterday, Dy added that agriculture growth for the second half of the year would only be around 1 percent.

"The extended dry spell and delayed planting had set farmers back by one to two months," Dy added.

Last year, agriculture grew 3.88 percent, grossing P887.6 billion at current prices.

For the first half of 2007, agriculture growth had slowed down to 3.5 percent, well below the 5.4-percent growth recorded in 2006 due to the prolonged dry spell that had hit Northern and Central Luzon.

Damages were estimated at P1.14 billion, or rice production losses of about 400,000 metric tons.

Although Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier admitted that the original growth would have to be revised, he said that Dy's estimate was "lower and worse."

"He should be asked to justify his estimates. I have my own numbers but I would be more certain after Sept. 15, which is the cut off for the quick turn around planting program," Yap said yesterday in a briefing.

Dy, meanwhile, said the target palay production of 16.2 million metric tons for 2007 was "unreachable."

"Production would most likely be lower than 14 million metric tons. The country needs to import about 1.6 million metric tons of rice, the same volume we have imported this year," Dy said.

Yap, on the other hand, said that the adverse effects of the dry spell could be offset by the harvests from 80,000 to 100,000 hectares of riceland in Visayas and Mindanao.

Yap is confident that with over two million hectares of rice land, palay production this year would be higher than 14 million metric tons.

Dy also said there was a corn shortage of about one million metric tons.

The shortage would consequently lead to the increase in prices of feeds, chicken and pork.

Worst hit, he said, would be the the backyard raisers.

It would not be practical however, for the country to import corn due to the high prices in the global market, he added.

"These imbalances will continue well until next year," Dy said.

Biofuels board gets ₱90-M initial budget

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Biofuels Board (NBB), which will oversee the government's alternative fuels program, has been given an initial budget of P90 million for 2008.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said in a statement yesterday that the P90 million would come from the Department of Energy's P3.6-billion proposed budget for 2008, which would allow the board to pursue its mandate.

Under the Biofuels Law, the NBB is tasked to ensure the supply and quality of biofuels, and to recommend any increase in the volume of biofuels to be blended with gasoline and diesel.

Under the Act, all diesel-fed vehicles should use at least 1-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law.

Gasoline, on the other hand, should have at least a 5-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity.

The mandated blend will rise to 2 percent for biodiesel after two years, and to at least 10 percent for bio-ethanol after four years.

The mandate for a 1-percent biodiesel blend took effect in May.

The NBB is composed of officials from the departments of Energy, Finance, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Labor and Employment, and Science and Technology, as well as from the Sugar Regulatory Administration and the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Aussie firm to open mine

AUSTRALIAN FIRM OCEANAGOLD CORP. said it was on track to opening its Didipio mine in the first half of 2009.

The Melbourne-headquartered firm describes the Didipio gold and copper project—covering 21,465 hectares of land in Kasibu town of Nueva Vizcaya and Nagtipunan town of Quirino—as "highly prospective."

Yearly output from Didipio is estimated at 227,000 gold equivalent ounces which, along with OceanaGold's two other projects in New Zealand, is expected to help the firm achieve an annual output of 500,000 ounces.

In a statement, OceanaGold said final phase engineering work in Didipio was well underway and that the contractor for the job was undertaking detailed design for site construction activities scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of this year.

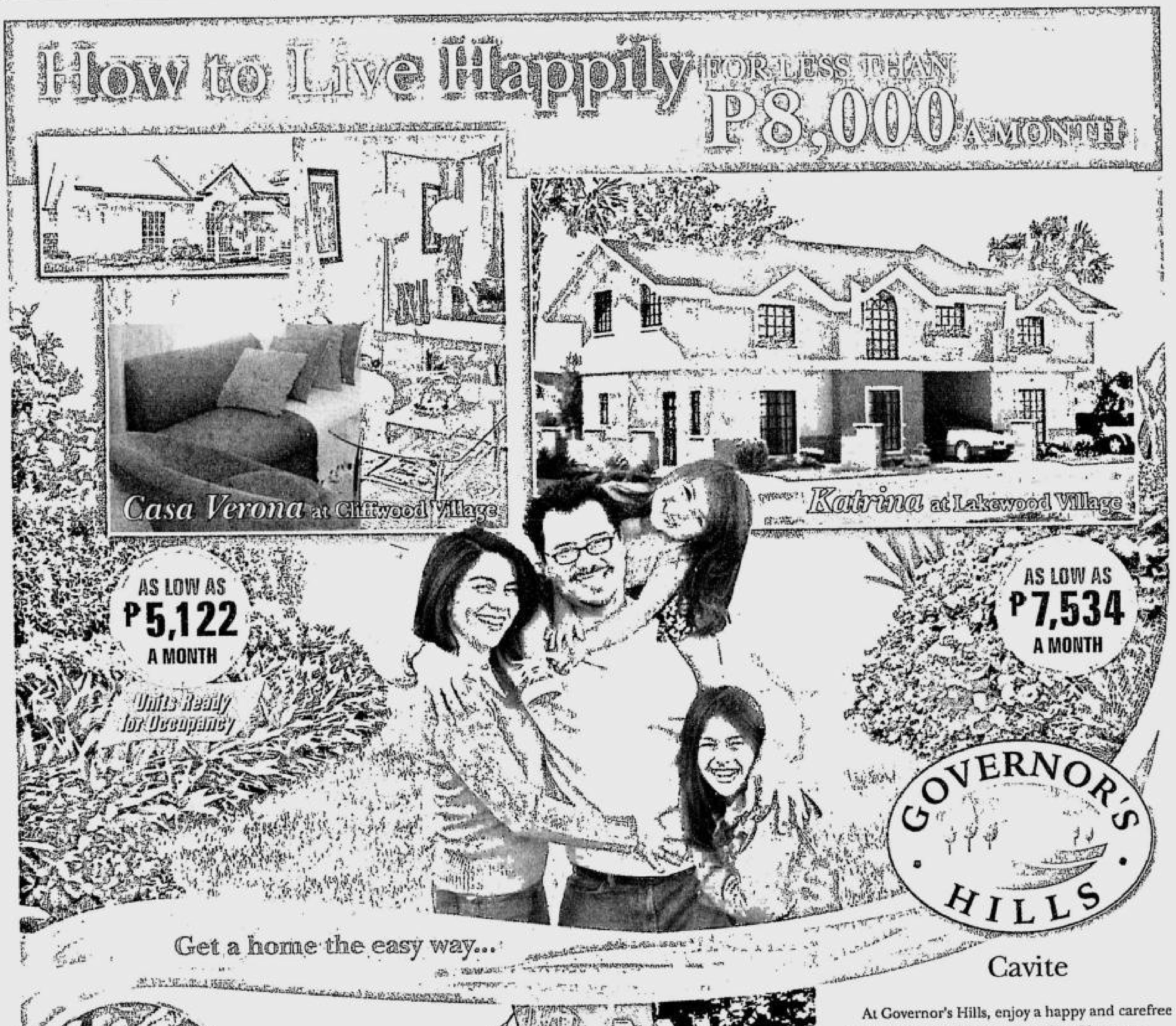
Also, the 21-kilometer access road connecting the mine to communities is already passable to light cars and trucks, although current work is focused on completing the upgrade of the road for all-weather access by September.

Further, OceanaGold said the mills, which were ordered in late 2006, were still on schedule to arrive in September 2008.

"We are pleased with the project to date and have been working closely with (the contractor, also an Australian firm) over the past few weeks to progress the engineering and design," said Patrick Goodfellow, company vice president in the Philippines.

OceanaGold, which is listed in the stock exchanges of Toronto, Australia and New Zealand, said it has some $162 million in cash for the construction of the Didipio project and for general corporate purposes.

Ronnel W. Domingo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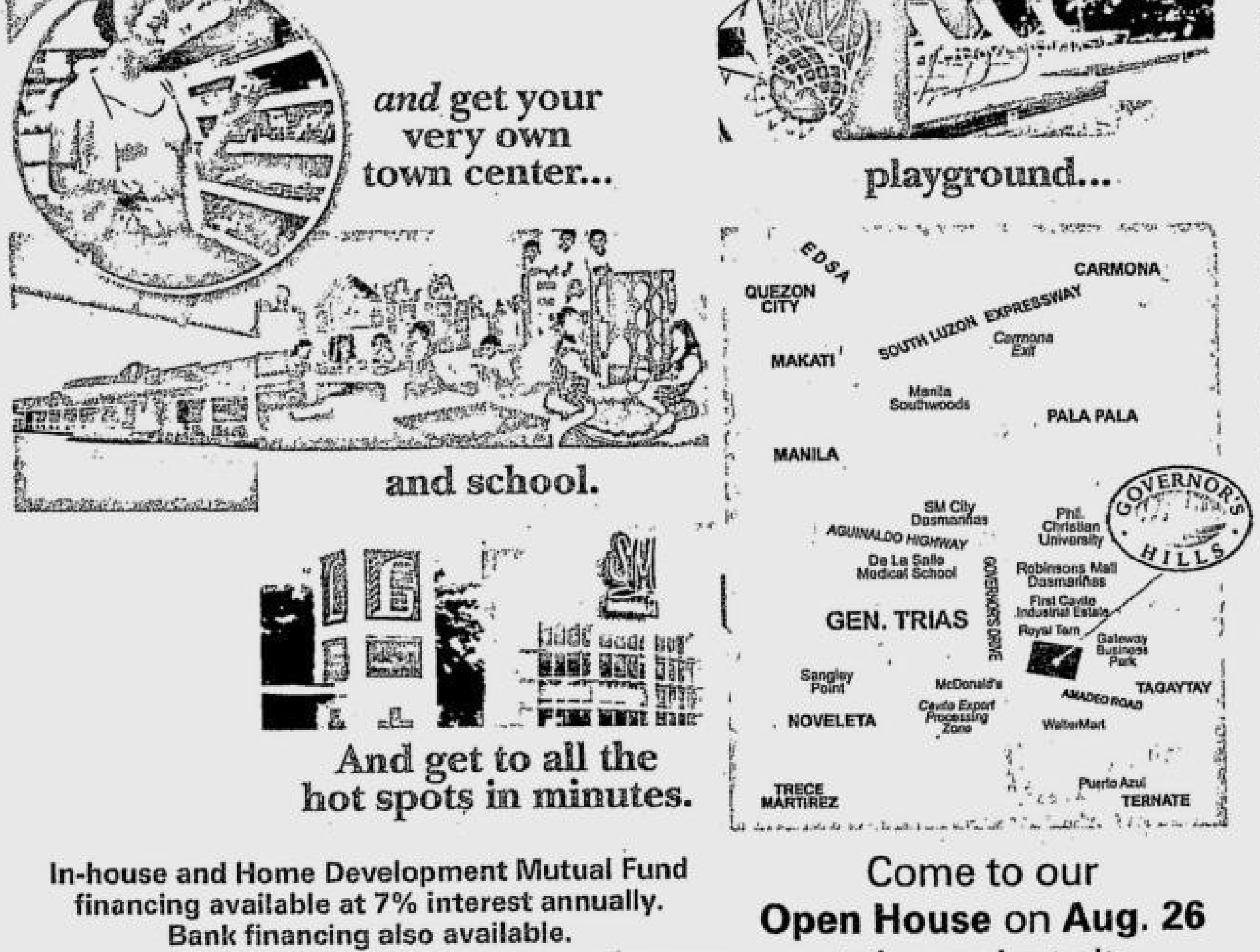

Cavite

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Governor's Hills is more than just an affordable home. It has everything you need to make each day a pleasure. Shop at the nearby 1.8-hectare town center. Enjoy hours of fun in your very own playground. With a swimming pool, clubhouse, multipurpose court, gazebo and landscaped walkways. For students, there's a science school inside the community. And nearby are other schools such as De La Salle and St. Scholastica's.

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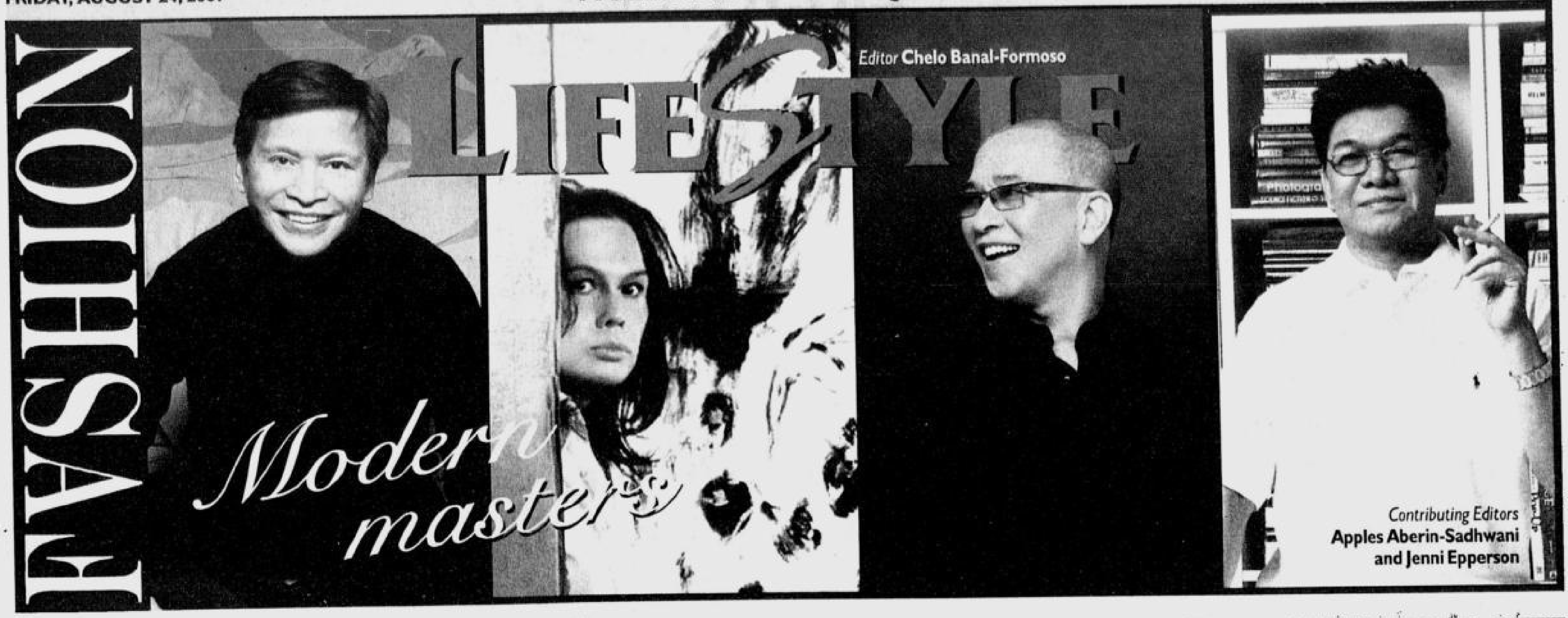


Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

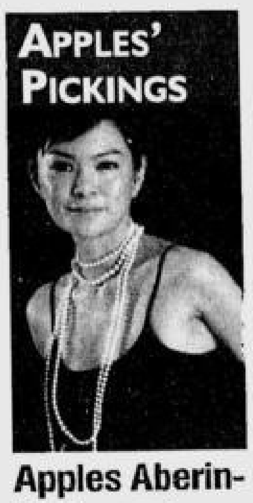
Modern masters

(First of three parts)

AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION, we present to you our choices as the country's modern fashion design masters.

Our objectives are three-fold here. First, we want to laud them for their artistry and generous contributions to the Philippine fashion scene. Each of them, in turn, has made us proud by representing our country around the world and/or sharing with us their talent and know-how. They are truly perfect examples of the Filipino artist at his best.

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Second, we want you, our readers, to get to know them through our one-on-one interviews with them. We asked them how they got started in the industry, their design philosophies, their views on the local fashion industry (What industry, some would say?).

After you've read the interviews, we're sure you'd understand why they're on our list.

Finally, we want to create portraits of all four with concepts that stem from their current state of mind. Inno Sotto, for example, painted larger-than-life designs on glass to depict how one's perceived image seems sometimes bigger and more daunting than who the real person is.

Sitting editor Millet Arzaga and top photographer Jun de Leon knew this was no easy task, but being the consummate professionals that they are, they went about completing the assignment, slowly but surely, and with a meticulous eye for detail.

It took two months plus lots of pre-production meetings for each designer to complete four awe-inspiring photographs. All four masters deserved nothing less, of course.

The sublime Inno Sotto

When and how did you get started in the fashion business?

With Christian [Espiritu], accidentally. Christian used to do all the clothes of my sisters and my mom, and there was one summer vacation I was in town (I was based in San Francisco studying Humanities at the time) when my sister or my mom asked why she wasn't able to fit some other pieces, and Christian said that it took a while for him now because he didn't have an assistant designer.

My sister asked: "What do you need an assistant designer for?" And Christian said something like: "I just need somebody who can draw for me." Then my sister said: "You know, my brother is in town."

He gave me a call and I told him I could draw. I used to take art lessons as a kid, but I didn't do fashion drawings, I did normal figures. He said it was OK, he would just explain things to me.

And that's how it all started. So during the entire summer, I spent most of my time in the back room, learning from Christian. Christian basically did draping and cutting. I was naturally curious, so I asked him some things and he would patiently explain things to me.

I thought that was a good opener for me to really appreciate what he was doing. And that was the time I got to meet Elvira Manahan, Chona Kasten, most of the women, socialites.

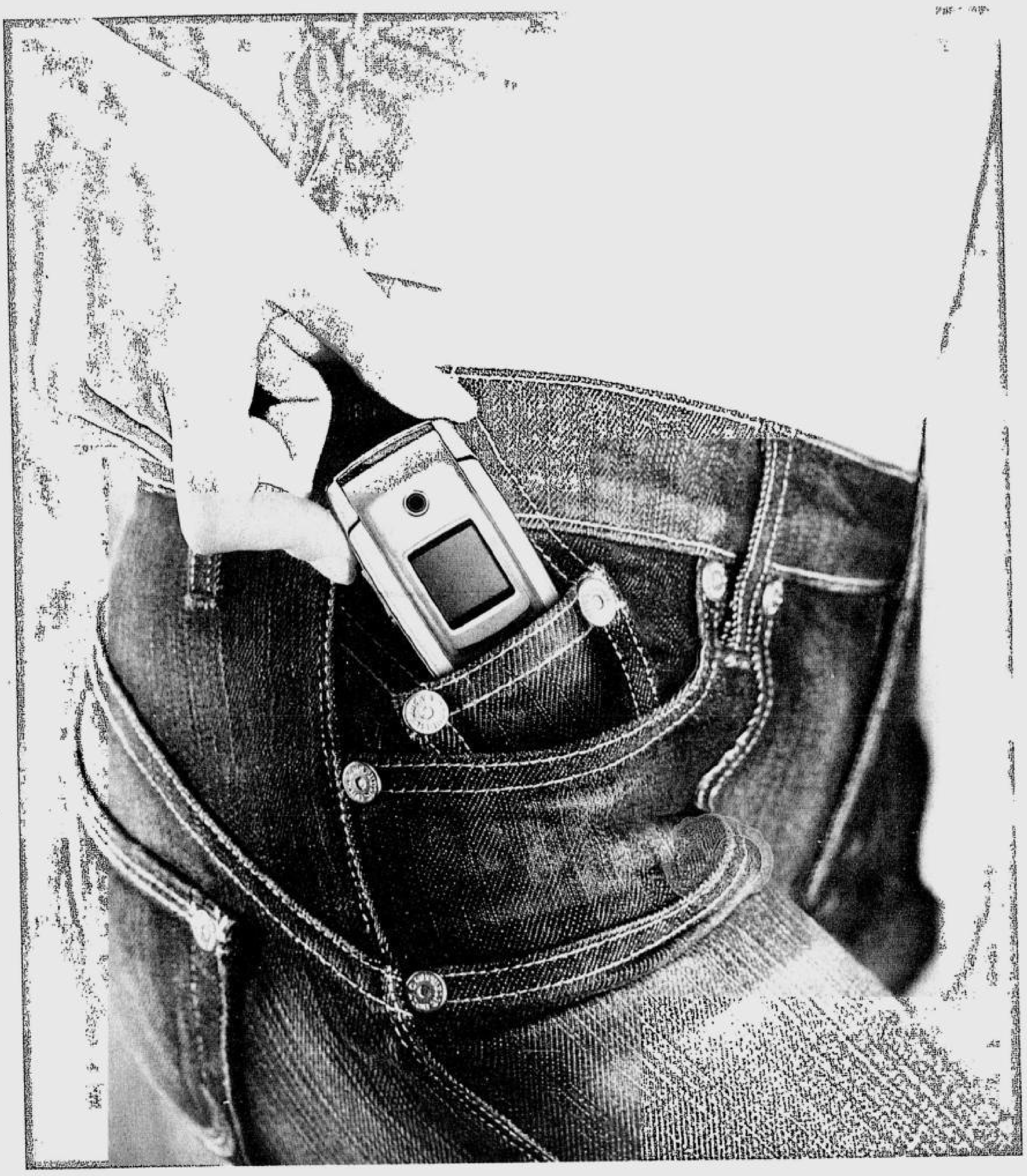
On and off, I stayed with him for nearly 15 months before going back to school.

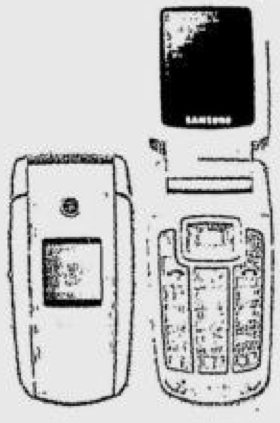
What happened then? Did you establish your business when you came home from school?

No, my whole family was based in the States. So, I came back but I would just go back and forth. I joined fashion competitions because they were open to fashion design students abroad. Fortunately for me, I won them. But then you know, winning is really just *suwerte-suwerte*.

I was curious to find out whether I would make any sense here. So I began making

MODERN/ C2





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INNO Sotto and his larger-than-life fashion renditions on glass

Modern masters

'More than anything, fashion is seduction—seducing people to get an accessory, a fragrance, a pair of shoes, a bag, clothing, a look. That's what it's all about'

From page C1

clothes for a few friends, and that was it. Josine Elizalde was one of my earliest clients. And Chona, and Chona's daughter Tetchie.

Why, in your opinion, are you considered one of Manila's modern masters?

Probably because I'm still here after 500 years. And maybe, I think, to a certain extent, because we are all different from each other. Auggie and I are different, Cesar's so different.

Each designer, because we were just so focused on what we were doing, managed to have his own personality. You can tell if something is very Auggie, very Cesar, very Inno.

Maybe at a certain time, after the generation of designers before us, we sort of helped define the dressing landscape, the images of women of a certain period.

Over the years, I think the hardest thing for all of us is to be able to sustain all this. That's the hardest thing, I think, for me—to be constantly interested in my work, and for others to be still interested in what I do. That's difficult.

So how do you sustain, how do you adapt?

You know, I'm just concerned with the moment. I think that's the most important thing about being a designer for me. I can't be too far ahead, too avant-garde, because I may only be able to relate to a few, a small percentage of people, who are very fast-forward in their thinking and appreciation of a certain look.

Neither do I want to be too retro, and to be always stuck in anything that's too old.

I think the most endemic thing about fashion is that it changes. So even if you do a throwback-to-the-'50s collection, it has to be a 2007 interpretation of the '50s. And that alone is challenging.

You dance with the music. You dance in step with the tempo. That's so important.

What's your design philosophy?

I don't have a conscious philosophy. But I am sure I am mentally, emotionally guided by some artistic bent. I'm inclined to do certain things a certain way. I think if it takes too much effort to say something, if I were a writer and it would take three paragraphs for me to say something that could be expressed in one sentence, then something's wrong somewhere.

A dress after all is a neckline, a hemline, sleeves or an armhole. That's what it is. But more than anything, I think it has to be very flattering on a woman. I cannot imagine doing anything that would call too much attention to itself and somehow not necessarily work for the one wearing it. That thought has always guided me.

What does it take to be a modern master?

I have no idea. My concept for this portrait was to illustrate what I do in a size bigger than how it's normally done, which is bond paper-size. Because I realize that, most of the time, people have an image of us, whether true or not, whether real or imaginary, that's much bigger than who we really are and what we really do.

And sometimes the reputation, the impression sort of precedes you. That's why I wanted something that doubled my height.

Originally, I wanted graffiti. I wanted that and then to do graffiti on it. I thought doing graffiti on it meant I wasn't taking it that seriously, but I know it is bigger than what it really is and who I really am, or who Auggie or Cesar really is.

Oftentimes, some people would probably bask in that. But it can be a handicap, too. People sometimes think you're difficult to approach, you're *suplado*, you're *mayabang*. Until they get to know you, until there is that encounter—it is just a reputation.

The celebrity-hood that comes with any work—people begin to associate you with an image, which you did not intentionally want to create but that only evolved as you were doing what you did to the best of your abilities.

There are people who believe the fashion industry is actually nonexistent in this country.

There really is none. That is one reality. I understood it during the time of Christian, Pitoy [Moreno].

What will it take for us to have a fashion industry?

I think we have to be able to source things here. We don't have a real textile industry to support designers, for one. That's why everyone sources from the same place. If we all have the same five yards of whatever fabric in the same color, one will do it a certain way, one will cut it in so many ways, attach it in so many ways, but you know, it's basically that.

I think we need a school. I think it has to be all related, cohesive, connected.

Who do you think is responsible for all this?

The government. The government must believe in something to push it. But I don't think it's considered an industry if it doesn't bring in dollars. The Filipino designers that are known abroad are the ones who are based abroad.

What are your current projects?

I have a show on Oct. 29. Right now I am the creative director and creative consultant for Rustan's. It has to do with image and merchandising. It's another aspect of fashion that's interesting. I have a few things between now and the first half of next year that I'm putting together.

Where are you at this point in your career?

Having lost a business partner two years ago opened my eyes to many things. I've had to tackle areas that I've never had to tackle before. But over the last year and a half, I've become stronger, more tenacious.

I realized I couldn't always think that somebody would look after me. So even if I would probably get into a situation where I'd have new business associates, I can no longer just concentrate on what I want to do and let somebody else see to it that everything is ok.

With Richard [Tann] gone, I've had to face certain things. But I've gotten over that and I've moved on. And also because of that, I seem, in a way, less conscious now of having to consult with and find out if I should do this or if it's time for that, which is good.

I have more audacity now, I have more gall. Much as I had that before—and I think Richard, too, that's why we went in the same direction—I'm more audacious now.

I'd like to think there's so much more to fashion than the things I've actually gone through in the last 500 years. I see it from two perspectives now, the made-to-order business and retailing. Much as I was also very conscious of branding my own brand, I am conscious of other things now, all the aspects that one must always consider.

I'm as conscious of one perfect muse, one perfect individual, as I seem to be of faceless women who must be drawn to a brand. It's interesting. The amount of effort and dedication is the same, but the approach becomes different.

But in the end, more than anything, fashion is seduction. Seducing people, men, women to get an accessory, a fragrance, a pair of shoes, a bag, clothing, a look. That's what it's all about. You seduce them into accepting. Basically, that's what fashion is all about.

And yet what's interesting is, much as I seem to be the seducer, I find myself constantly being seduced by women because, now more than ever in the history of fashion, women have more access to things. They have the license now to wear anything and to express themselves.

Women, I think, have that ability to be the quintessential chameleon. And that's something I find so fascinating.

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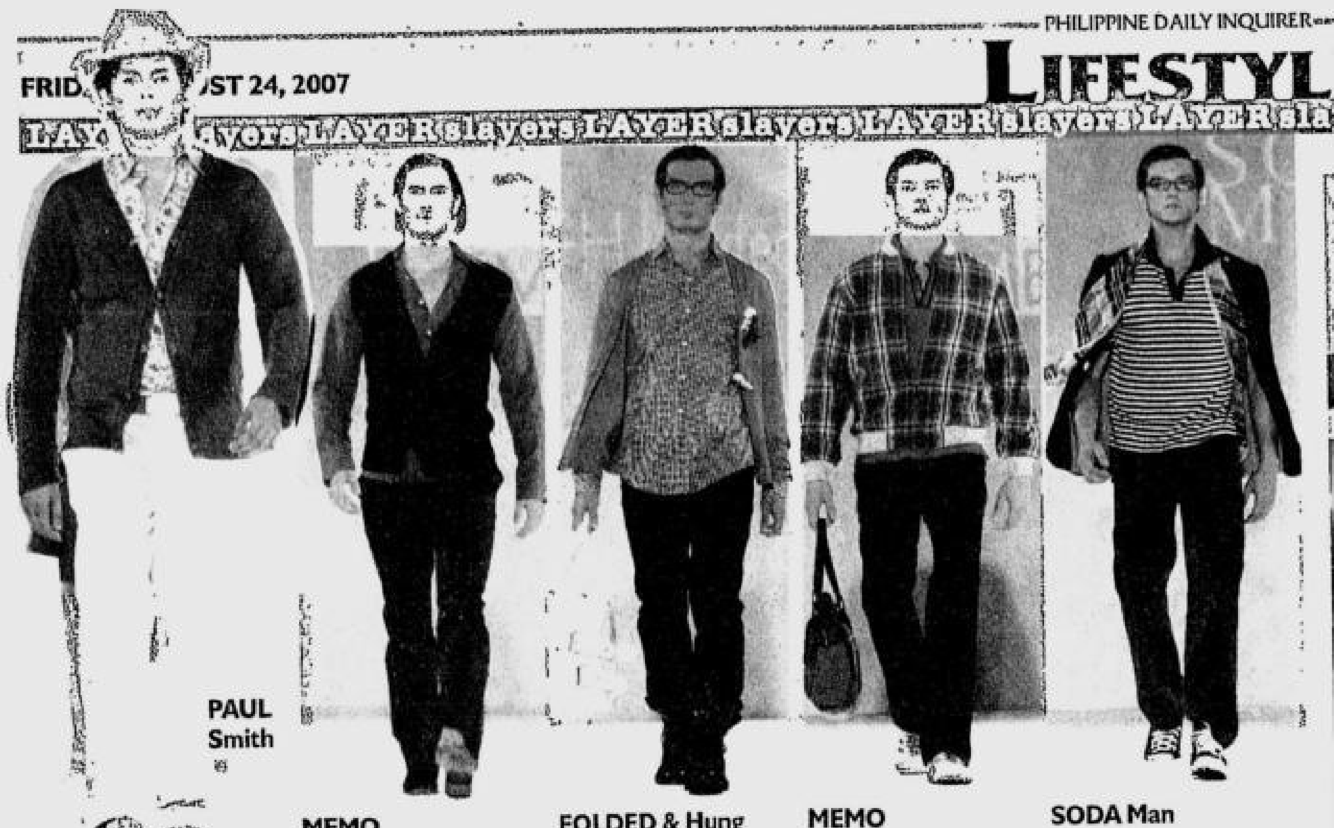
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PAUL Smith

MEMO

FOLDED & Hung

MEMO

SODA Man

Urban warriors

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ALTHOUGH FASHION IS OFTEN associated with frivolity, being fashionable is never synonymous to being frivolous. One can adopt raging trends without sacrificing or diminishing one's intellect and capacity to be engaged in weightier issues.

For decades, not a few stylish women have insisted on this belief as they tried to buck persistent and totally unfair stereotypes about their inability to grasp more complex issues beyond hemlines and heel heights.

If Metro hiM's latest efforts were to be the gauge, the well-suited male has also begun to position himself in order to be taken more seriously. ABS-CBN Publishing's "gentlemen's" monthly, in cooperation with Globe Platinum and Bulgari, recently honored eight outstanding men it deemed as trailblazers in their respective fields as well as sources of inspiration to others.

Awareness program

The event also doubled as an awareness program for the La Mesa Nature Park and the La Mesa Watershed. In fact, the eight awardees, whose huge portraits were displayed at the cocktail venue, were photographed by Sara Black, Steve Tirona and Aldwin Aspillera with the nature park as backdrop.

Sen. Chiz Escudero, actor Piolo Pascual, TV director Laurenti Dyogi (it seemed no man was worthy enough to be recognized from other TV stations) led the awardees, which also included engineer Victor Consunji, music patron and Odyssey owner Jay Fonacier, businessman Jean Henri Lhuillier, furniture designer Milo Naval and Dr. Windell Rivera.

Except for Rivera, Naval, Fonacier and Lhuillier, the rest of the awardees failed to grace the event staged recently at the Rockwell Tent.

Despite its organizers' attempts to stage an affair with a supposedly serious side, however, it seemed more than half of the audience who trooped to the venue had one thing in mind: to feast their eyes on the latest RTW male fashion by some of today's biggest foreign as well as local brands such as Paul Smith, Ben Sherman, Daniel Hechter, F&H, Memo, Levi's, Dockers and Soda Man.

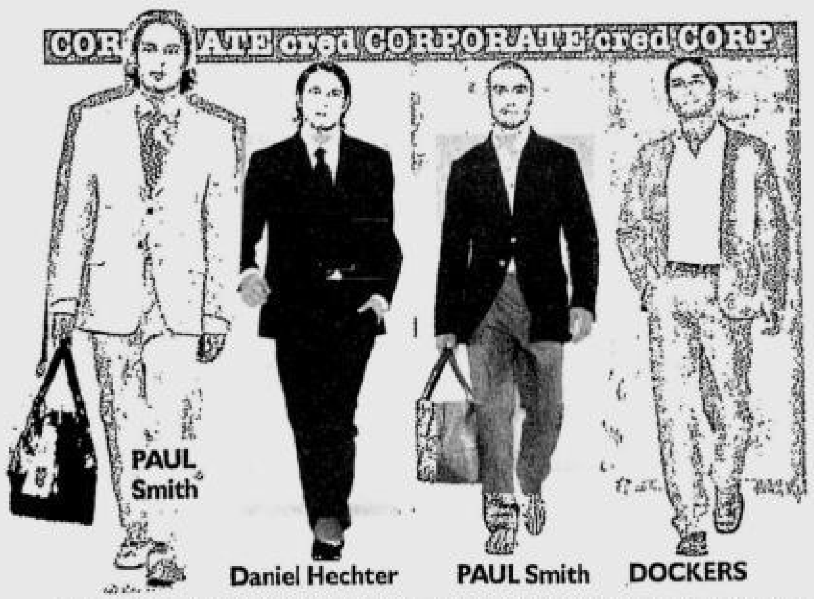
Inspirations range from the corporate to the sporty, strait-laced to the preppy, wholesome to the naughty. While the likes of Paul Smith and Daniel Hechter showed impeccably tailored jackets based on their trademark color palettes, homegrown brands such as Memo and Soda Man made light versions of clothes supposedly suited for fall and summer, respectively.

Soda Man went for a decidedly mod, 1960s look with slim pants, knee-length gingham shorts and body-hugging shirts. F&H, on the other hand, channeled 1990s London with printed sweaters, striped tees and hoodies a la Fine Young Cannibals. Ben Sherman also drew inspiration from British symbols with sweaters and weekend bags emblazoned with stylized Union Jacks.

Levi's again proved that there's more to the brand than jeans with slim and updated jackets, fitted tees and lightweight sweaters. In contrast, Dockers reinforced its image as casual Friday and weekend wear with laid-back pairings in light colors.

With a few notable exceptions, the collections' general look tended to favor either layering or slim-fitting silhouettes.

And to keep the fashion show from becoming an all-male affair, it featured a few female models in women's clothes by Paul Smith, Memo, Levi's and Ben Sherman. After all, being fashionable and having a keen eye for fashion also transcends gender.


CORP ATE cred CORPORATE cred CORP

PAUL Smith

Daniel Hechter

PAUL Smith

DOCKERS

STRIPE tease STRIPE tease STRIP tease

BEN Sherman

SODA Man

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SODA Man

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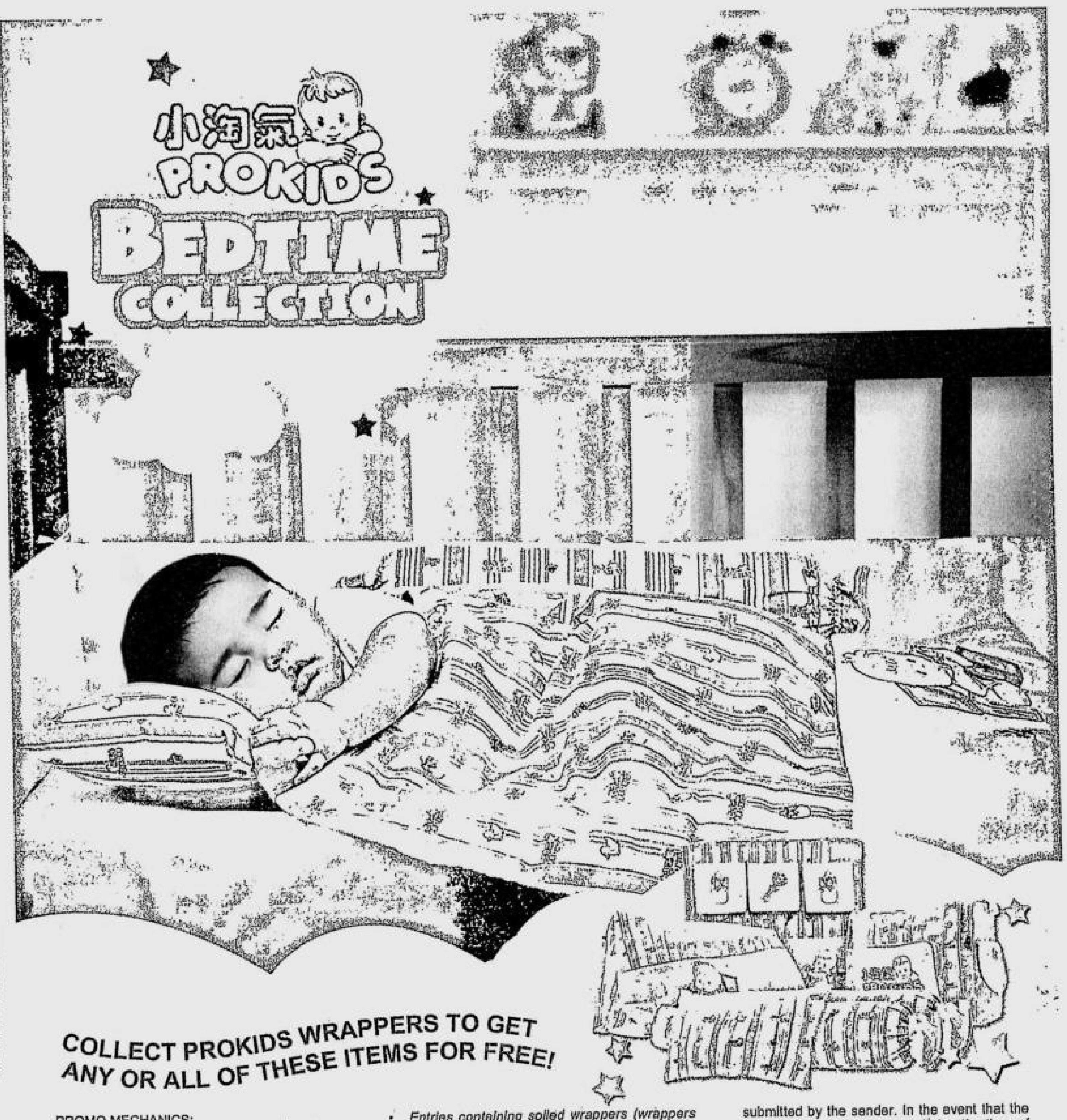

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PROMO MECHANICS:
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2. You can join by simply collecting wrappers with intact points of **Prokids Premium Baby Diapers** ***with Soft Cottony Magic Tape.*** Points per packaging are as follows:

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Baby Diaper Bag	20 points
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4. Submit the required **Prokids Premium Baby Diapers** ***with Soft Cottony Magic Tape*** wrappers together with the complete information written on a piece of paper: sender's name, complete address, baby's name and birthday, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, signature of parent/guardian and the desired premium item. Please include landmarks for hard to find location.

5. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

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"Prokids Bed Time Collection"
P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City

6. The chosen premium item/s will be delivered FREE of charge by **JRS Express** to the address submitted by the sender. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.

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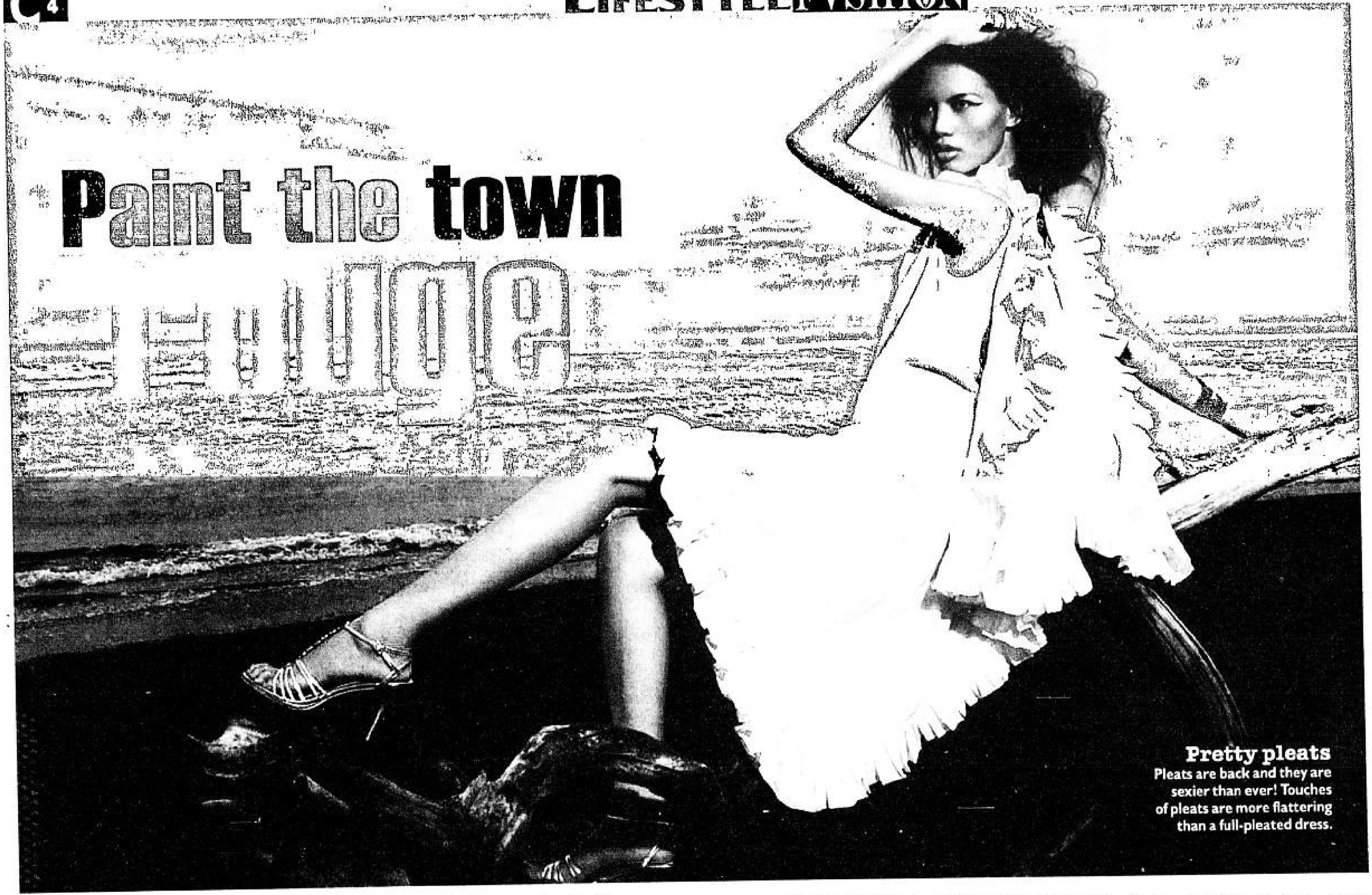


Pretty pleats
Pleats are back and they are sexier than ever! Touches of pleats are more flattering than a full-pleated dress.

Jenni Epperson

IF COLORS HAD CHARACter, then you could say red is the most powerful of all.

In the medieval times, wearing red was the exclusive right of the nobility. Kings, cardinals, judges and executioners announced their power over life and death by wearing red coats, which symbolized their rank and authority.

Because of its visibility, red is the most frequently used color for national flags. Think of seduction and it's red that comes to mind, preferably a slinky number! Such is the effect of red—powerful and passionate, sensual and stylish.

Red is also the newest fashion house in the country. The Colour Red recently launched in Manila, and is now making its way to Barcelona and London via its premiere label, Rouge.

Fusing function with style, this fashion force creates pieces for the modern woman, evoking an intensity and energy that brings out her strength and individuality.

A team of foreigners who merged with the inspiration and passion of Filipino designer Puey Quiñones created Rouge. "The kind of woman I see wearing my collection is one who dreams big," Puey shares about his designs for the groundbreaking label.

"She is tasteful and quiet in general, but likes to make a grand entrance at a party. The pieces call attention to themselves but in a sophisticated, elegant manner. I want to keep seeing things as if for the first time."

Known mostly for his quirky yet classic collections, Puey draws inspiration from his experiences and observations on the chic and trendy streets of the world. He takes those global ideas and infuses them with a local touch, by working with indigenous Philippine materials, and rich silks or shredded chiffon and cotton voile. The offspring is both modern and traditional. A global Filipiniana, a couture feel to ready-to-wear.

Puey encourages a sense of uniqueness by the sheer mix and use of the materials with the various functions of the pieces in the collection. It is very forward thinking as it encourages flexibility and expression.

It is the perfect interpretation for Rouge's vision—designs that are ethereal, dramatic and sexy with a modern twist. Multi-functional, reversible wraps and removable skirts are the core items of its collection.

We will be introduced to Puey's first collection of the label with its own four lines—Resort Wear, with mini dresses, long tops over short shorts, cropped and loose tops with matching pieces.

For Day Wear, expect classic cuts with added detailing such as piping, lace in unusual places and even buttons in places and materials that are fresh and unexpected.

The Corporate Wear set showcase dresses that work from the office to a cocktail party—no boring 9-5 office looks here!

And, finally, Evening shows pieces in big colorful prints in classic cuts.

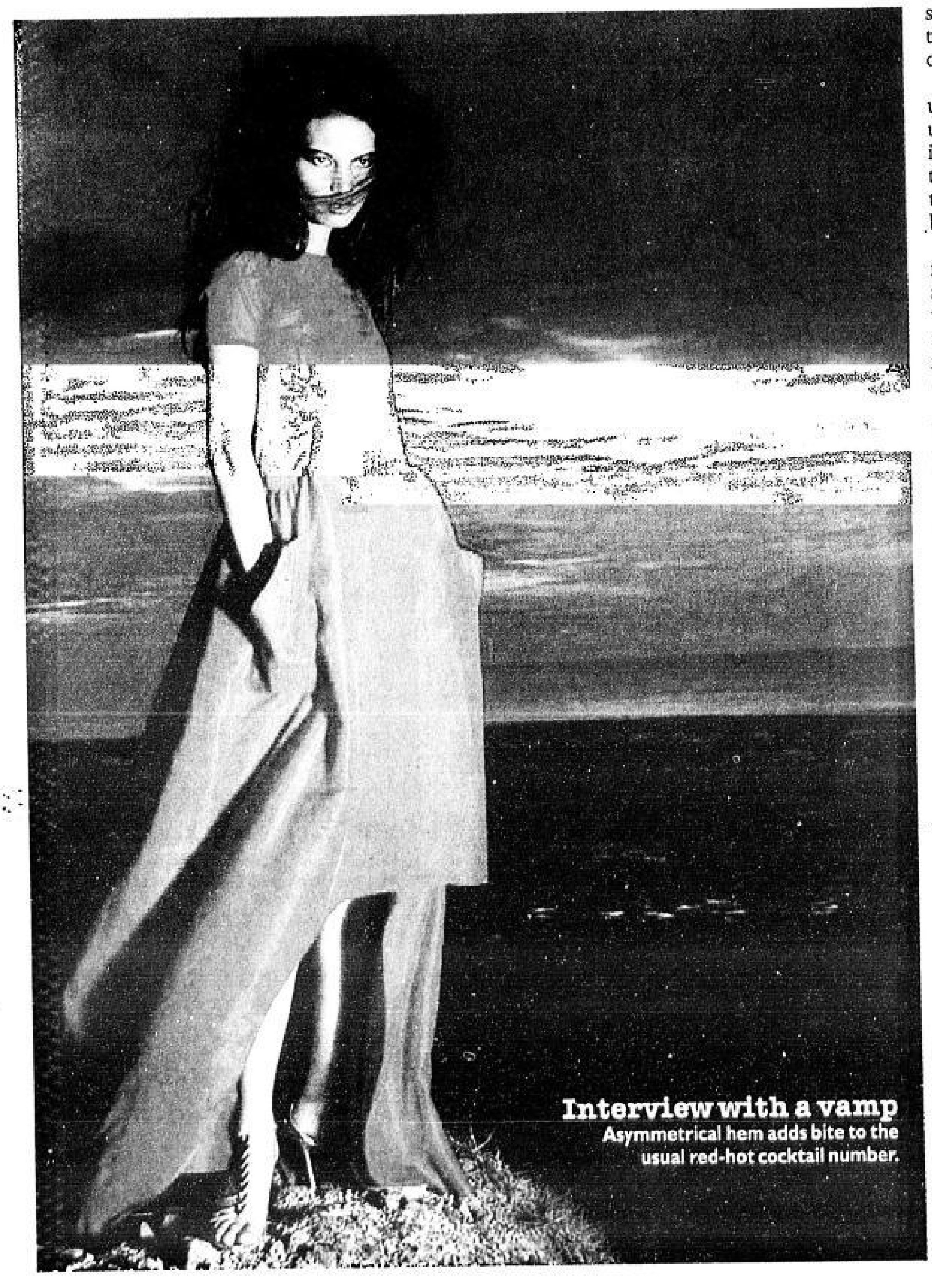
With global labels coming to Manila from all over the world, it's about time we did the same. With the powerhouse label Rouge, Puey Quiñones is painting the global village red.

Visit www.TheColourRed.com. E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

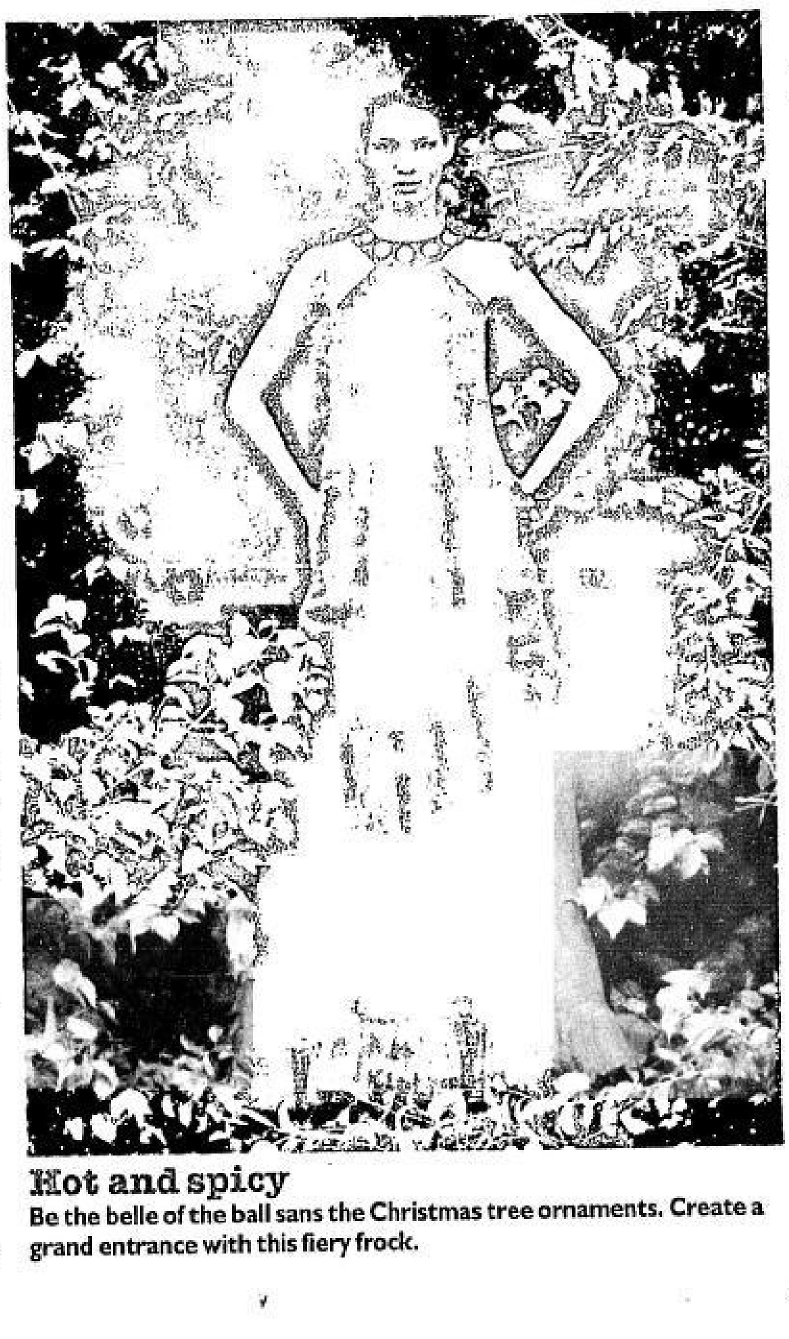
**Photography
Charles Lu of Wildbunch
Art direction Michael Sallientes
Makeup Gina Llanto
Hair Bernard Belgica
Model Ria Bolivar
Clothes Rouge by Puey Quinones**

Black orchid
Pimp your little black dress with ruffles and buttons.

Party line
This season, go minimalist with pearl button details than sparkly ones on your fabulous party dress.



Interview with a vamp
Asymmetrical hem adds bite to the usual red-hot cocktail number.



Hot and spicy
Be the belle of the ball sans the Christmas tree ornaments. Create a grand entrance with this fiery frock.

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REVLON Inter Actives Anti-sebum Treatment

There's a direct correlation between oily scalp and hair loss or baldness

Suave
MEN
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SUAVE for Men Clarifying Formula shampoo

Myths about dry vs oily hair

MAKEOVER 911
Kinny Salas

ONE OF MY MAJOR PET peeves is hearing people proclaim a shampoo too harsh (as in *matapang*) when it causes their hair to fall.

To say a shampoo is too harsh usually means it is too drying; so people who complain about dry hair go for mild baby shampoo or a moisturizing formula. This is a big mistake because there is a direct correlation between oily scalp and alarming hair loss or baldness.

Those who get bald most likely have inherited a parent's greasy scalp as well. The grease blocks the hair opening or pore on the scalp, cutting oxygen supply to the hair follicle so it eventually suffocates and falls off.

Now, hair has a life span of about four years per strand; that's why it is normal to lose about 75 to a hundred in a day as new strands push the old one out. If, however, you lose hair strands before their four years are up, you have to wait for a next cycle for new ones to grow; hence a bald spot emerges. Grease that blocks the hair pore may just doom all chances of hair ever growing back, leaving you bald for life.

All major shampoo launches are for color-treated hair. Or they promise to make your wavy hair stick straight by loading it down with tons of moisturizing properties. Guess what? Those of you who have oily scalps will go bald. Those with thick hair and normal to dry scalps are of course best suited for the amazing new products.

All these moisturizing shampoos being sent to my house is making me lose more hair. I tell suppliers I have oily scalp and to send me products to deal with that; but they insist my hair is dry because I have it highlighted. Nobody makes hair shampoos for oily hair over here. The few ones I have tried which are reasonably priced have been pulled out of the market due to lack of demand because all these ads tell us we have normal to dry hair, not paying attention to our scalp.

Fact: You should treat scalp, not hair, because that is literally the root of your hair problems. For dry ends, you should use a rich conditioner and limit it to that area, keeping it as far away from the scalp as possible so as not to suffocate the pores.

Fact: If you are stressed, your skin produces more oil. Ditto with the scalp. That is why we lose hair when we are anxious. Due to our humid weather and stressful daily situations, more Filipinos have oily scalps than they think. It's true that the shampoo cannot remove stress, but it will control oil that stress produces, at least preventing excess hair loss which is one less thing to stress about.

Fact: Hair-fall shampoos will only help if your problem is hair breakage, not hair loss. Inspect your strands, if there is no white bulb on the end, then that's hair breakage; if there are white bulbs, then that is hair loss. Hair-fall shampoos will not help hair loss.

Products to use

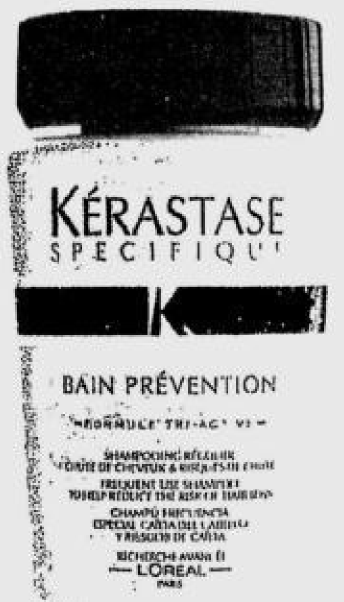
Shampoo—You need not blow big bucks for this. I found Suave Men Shampoo Deep Cleaning at Rustan's Fresh grocery or Shopwise; it's only P121 for a huge 429-ml bottle. It works just as well, if not better, than expensive salon or specialty-shop shampoos for oily hair.

Also keep your eyes out for White Rain Clarifying or St. Ives Clarifying Formula usually found at groceries or drugstores. Those who really want branded shampoos, go for The Body Shop's Nettle Shampoo (P475) or Kérastase Bain Prevention (P975).

Conditioners—Use whatever suits your hair strands, but keep it away from scalp. Pantene's leave-on conditioner is great; so is Sunsilk's.

If you already have a conditioner you are happy with, there is no need to buy new brands.

Treatment—This is the part that will cost you. Revlon Professional Inter Actives Line has anti-hair-loss patches that you stick on your back for 24-hour intervals; it's a wonderful product. I got mine at Razzle Dazzle Salon, and one thing I noticed is that it cleared up my acne-prone areas such as face, back, and shoulders and, of course, it reduced my hair loss/fall by 50 percent. My face also became less oily to my delight as pictures showed with a lot less retouch with face powder. A pack of 30 costs about P3,800, and, according to an international hair expert, one needs a 60-day supply so you would need two boxes.



KÉRASTASE Bain Prevention Shampoo for oily scalp and hair-fall prevention

If your problem is merely oily hair, there are anti-sebum treatment vials to be used every other day. The method: Apply to scalp evenly but do not massage in as this will stimulate oil production. (There goes another myth about having hot oils and scalp massages when your hair is falling.)

Again, this only works if the problem is breakage and not hair loss. Breakage often occurs with damaged hair strands or very dry hair and scalp.

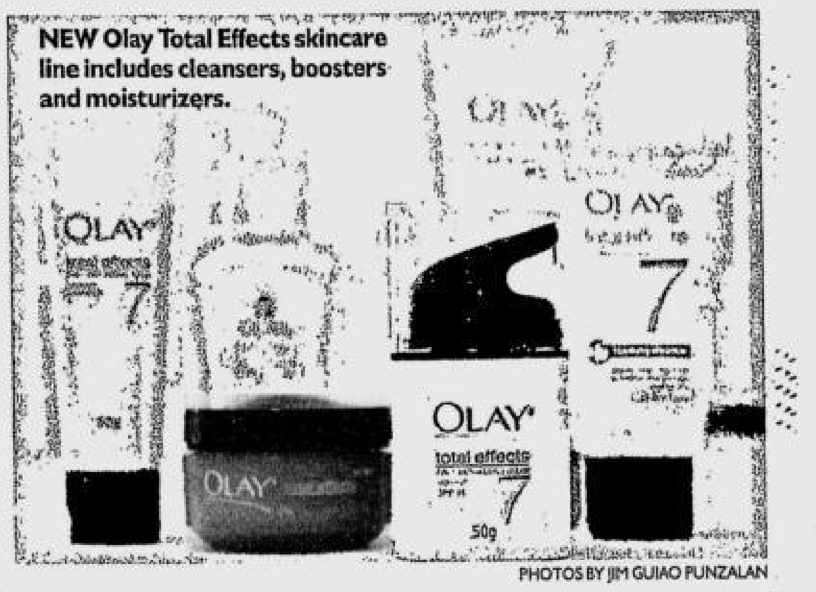
For Revlon interactive product, call Razzle Dazzle at 8402880 or 8482388. Kérastase products are exclusively available at hair salons.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

Olay Total Effects expert says the damage to skin by pollution, stress and smoking may be checked by lifestyle change and the correct skincare products

The war against aging

By Rowena C. Burgos



NEW Olay Total Effects skincare line includes cleansers, boosters and moisturizers.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

EVERY WOMAN DREADS THE day when she glimpses the first wrinkle on her otherwise smooth skin. But for many, that day is arriving even earlier than they expected.

"We're seeing many more women with sun damage at earlier ages today," says David Khoo, a P&G skincare scientist based in Singapore. "And the number of young women with skin cancer is startling."

Khoo has worked closely with fellow scientists in research and development to develop new skincare cosmetics for the Asian consumer. His most recent work has been on the New Olay Total Effects project, for which he has worked with internal Olay scientists and external dermatologists to confirm the efficacy and safety of the product technology.

He has also worked with a group of dermatologists to develop the Asia-Pacific Center for Skin Aging, a research body studying skin aging.

Sun, pollution, and smoking in adolescence and early adulthood are the culprits behind age spots, broken blood vessels and irregular pigmentation by the time you're in your 30s, Khoo says. "Dodging those three is the best way to keep skin looking young as long as possible. But if the damage is done, don't lose hope. Going under the knife isn't the only option. Even though you can't completely erase the effects of aging and unhealthy habits, you can take advantage of P&G's Olay Total Effects range of products that may help hide these flaws."

Improved formulation

According to Khoo, the improved formulation of Olay Total Effects has 75 percent more Niacinamide or Vitamin B3, which works in combination with Vitamin E and Pro-Vitamin B5. Vitamin E functions as skin soothing and conditioning agent while B5 or Panthenol enhances skin moisture. The product range now has four times more antioxidants, which provide effective protection against skin-damaging free radicals. "One gram of the new Total Effects has more antioxidant capacity than one gram of red grapes," Khoo says.

"The new Olay Total Effects provides the benefits of seven anti-aging treatments such as line minimization, nourishing moisturization, tone enhancement, gentle exfoliation, pore refinement, providing antioxidants and subtle lifting," Khoo says.

The new Olay Total Effects skincare line includes cleansers (Foaming Cleanser, Cream Cleanser and Anti-Blemish Cream Cleanser), boosters (Night Cream, Eye Cream and Serum) and moisturizers (Normal, Normal plus UV, Gentle, Gentle plus UV and Blemish-Prone).

Sunblock

Many people still wrongly assume that sun protection is required only for a day at the pool or beach. In fact, you need it everyday. "When you're walking your dog, or even sitting next to a window for a long time, you're getting incidental sun exposure-and, over time, that adds up to sun damage," says Khoo. Pay attention to the sun-protection factor (SPF). Olay's moisturizer with an SPF of 15 blocks about 96 percent of the sun's rays. That can make a big difference to someone who's fair-skinned.

Besides causing wrinkles and other damages, aging and sun exposure can exacerbate dry skin. Khoo recommends regular use of a moisturizer once a woman is in her late 20s or 30s to smooth and soften skin. He recommends avoiding hot or frequent showers (which can remove the body's natural oils) and disinfectant soaps, which can be abrasive.

Antioxidants like topical Vitamins C or E neutralize free radicals (unstable oxygen molecules that break down skin cells, damage DNA and exacerbate wrinkles) and can improve the skin's appearance and protect it from sun damage, Khoo says.

Fountain of youth

The secret to forever-youthful skin may literally lie in the fountain—water! Moisture-depleted skin cells yearn for plumping, healing hydration, which you can provide through the application of moisturizers. Khoo notes that the skin is especially dry, which often means scaly, dry flakes (which can be more obvious on darker skin) during the rainy season. He recommends sealing in your hydrating efforts morning and night with a thick, moisturizing cream.

Oh, those dreaded dark under-eye circles! They happen to the best of us, but rather than blame fate, heredity or too many late nights, take action. According to Khoo, lifestyle habits such as smoking, drinking too much caffeine and overindulging in alcohol cause capillaries to leak iron and blood cells into the under-eye area, giving it a dark appearance. Keeping allergy and sinus conditions in check can also help reduce dark circles. For even more impact, use Eye Cream dedicated to this problem area.

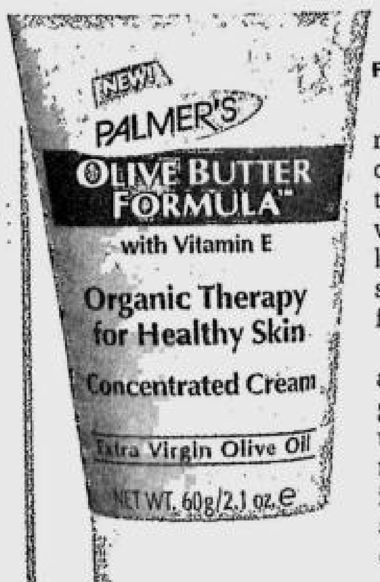
In his presentation, Khoo also introduced the SIAscope, a skin-analysis tool that helps women look beneath the surface to understand skin aging. "Melanin, collagen and haemoglobin are found beneath the surface of the skin and influence skin appearance. These proteins are affected by the aging process, both internal and external. The SIAscope shows how these proteins are affected and helps women understand how Total Effects can help," Khoo explains.

"You're never too old to protect your skin. You may feel like giving up when you see the consequences of teenage tans in your mirror, but that's no excuse for skipping daily sunblock," says Khoo. "Sun damage is cumulative—and that means every day's rays do a little more harm. If you're craving that golden tan, try bronzers. You'll get the same glow, but without the guilt."

DAVID Khoo introduces SIAscope, a skin-analysis tool.

Yummy mommy

From page C6



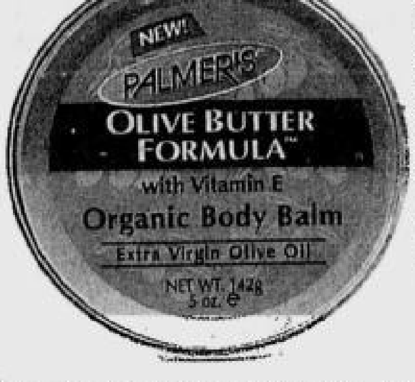
It's really very important to read the labels. I asked Anna Go of Rustan's for a list of products that would be safe to use by women in my condition. I told her about my concerns, such as stretch marks, dry skin, my hunt for safe moisturizers, etc.

Well, through her help, here are some products that I've begun using. It's as if these products are going through the pregnancy with me and, sympathetic to the emotional state I am in, are offering support in their own way.

Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula is a must-have line for all expecting mothers. I use the soothing oil for itchy skin, while the massage lotion—a favorite—is for stretch marks. My friend who used these products during her pregnancy swears by them.

I also got the vitamin E scar serum to reduce the appearance of my existing stretch marks. Seriously, I feel like a soldier out to win the stretch-marks war. Believe me, only those who have them will understand my obsession, and those of you who are lucky enough not to have them should start thinking of ways to avoid them. They're not pretty, and they're the enemy.

Gentle texture



PALMER'S
OLIVE OIL FORMULA
Extra Conditioning for Dry Hair
with Virgin Olive Oil
NET WT.

NEW!
PALMER'S
OLIVE BUTTER FORMULA
with Vitamin E
Organic Therapy Soap
Extra Virgin Olive Oil
NET WT. 125g/4.4 oz.

Another new brand I recently discovered, thanks to my pregnancy, is The Organic Pharmacy. I love its Antioxidant Face Cream, an anti-aging product with a gentle texture that makes me feel I am not doing any harm to the baby in my tummy.

My skin has become extra-dry with the onset of pregnancy, probably because of my more frequent bathroom use. Also, since I always feel warm, I would sometimes get rashes. But with this antioxidant face cream, my skin has become supple again, and I don't get that oily feeling since the cream is light and banishes the feeling of tightness.

Then there's Barielle's intensive hand cream, which has a yummy dewberry scent. It even comes with comfy gloves, so I sleep looking like Mickey Mouse.

But that's okay. With all the rituals I do before sleeping, I wake up feeling well-moisturized and reinvigorated. I'm making sure I'll have a happy, safe pregnancy ahead, and that I'll win the war against stretch marks in the end.

BEAUTY

Contributing Editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

Svenson saved my hair!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes
Interior Designer

For Tessa Prieto-Valdes, hair isn't just her crowning glory, it's her favorite accessory. "I do a lot of things to my hair," she says. "I even make sure my hair matches my outfit! I do a lot of coloring and styling so I know I have to put in extra effort to keep it healthy. I've tried lots of shampoos and treatments but they were only temporary solutions. Then I discovered the Svenson treatments which feel like they enter the scalp and actively treat it. My hair is now thicker, full of volume, and [illegible] I'm definitely satisfied with the [illegible] Svenson saved [illegible] damage."

[illegible]

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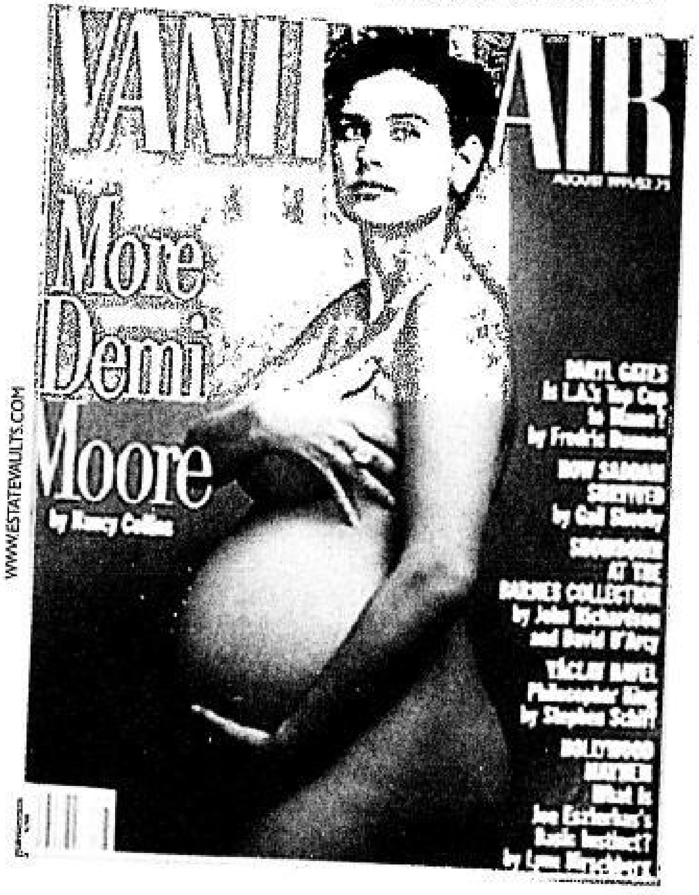
Yummy mommy

Some beauty products are not for pregnant women like me. Here are some that are safe to use



WWW.ESTATEVAULTS.COM

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

TALK ABOUT BAby boom!

I know at least 12 people who are expecting a baby. They include me. And now I know what it means when they say all pregnancies are different.

I have a friend who is allowed to go to the gym, and the only symptom she has is, she is extra sleepy—if you can call that a symptom at all. I, on the other hand, am perpetually dizzy, thirsty, feeling hot and sleepy, plus I need to stay in bed and have to get shots every week.

I get envious just hearing my friend talk about her day at the mall, while my only day out is when I'm off to see the doctor.

Since my pregnancy is more delicate compared to hers, I find myself worrying about everything. That includes the products I use on myself. Fortunately, because of my vigilance, I found out recently that one of the creams I've been using had a warning saying it wasn't for pregnant women!

YUMMY/C5

An acclaimed actress, a fast-rising international star and a true embodiment of oriental beauty, Ms. Jesseca Liu uses Bigen Silk Touch Elegant Mahogany (6R).

Jesseca Liu
MediaCorp Artiste

What is Oriental beauty?

Is it the way you look,
the way you feel,
or the way you are?

Come find out at the
Bigen Silk Touch Mall Exhibit
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Hair color inspired by Oriental beauty.
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- **Robinsons Galleria** - August 29 to September 2
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- **Robinsons Manila** - September 12 to 16
- **Festival Mall** - October 13 to 14
- **SM North EDSA** - October 18 to 24

*** Upon every purchase of Bigen Silk Touch, get free hair color application. Available in all exhibits except in SM malls.**

For every purchase, get a chance to:
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  Have your photo taken after availing of the Bigen Silk Touch free hair-color application.

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LIFESTY

A THROWBACK to the '70s, Wallis Cerise jersey dress in fuchsia

WHITE collared shirt, beige knit sweater and culottes, croc bag and oversized silver jewelry, all from Wallis

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Brit brand returns soon

A NEW FACE OF Wallis will excite Manila's fashionistas when it opens Sept. 1 at the second level of Robinsons Galleria.

The biggest international brand from the UK clothing giant Arcadia Group Ltd., Wallis dresses today's busy woman with classic pieces that achieve a look that is grown-up, elegant, individual and very distinguished.

The new Wallis store will carry the latest Autumn/Winter '07 collection which draws inspiration from the 1970s and 1980s, with a definite nod to futuristic touches. An emphasis on strong color and multilayering gives an understated glamorous edge to the wardrobe. Adornment is also key this season, with rouleaux trims and delicate buttons decorating blouses.

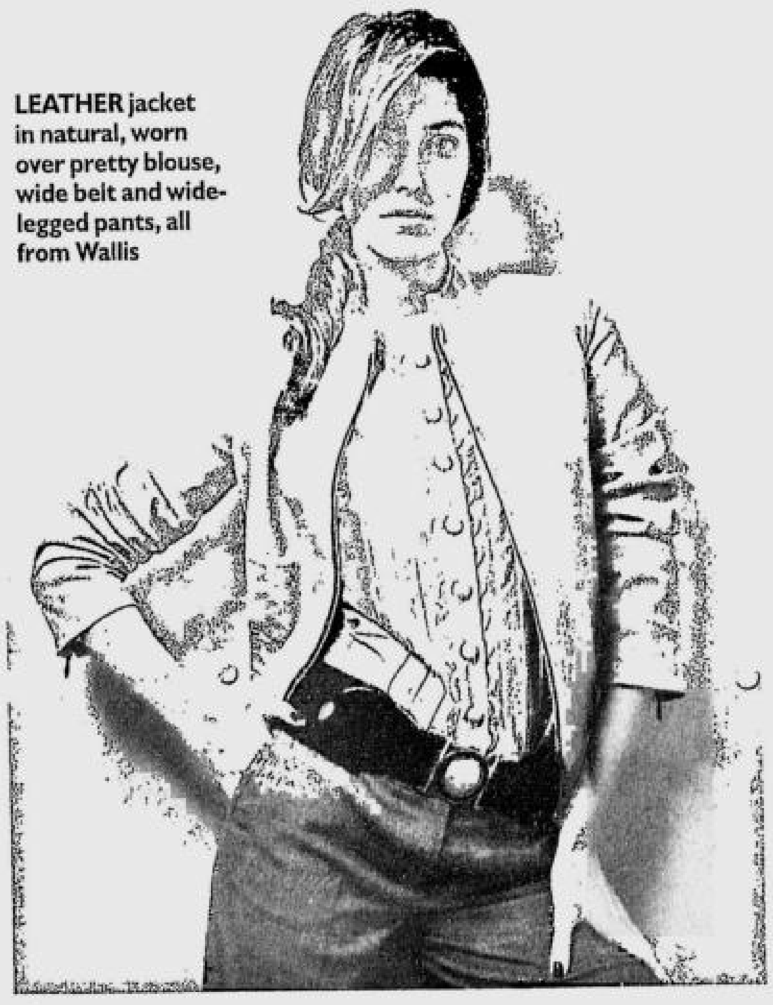
Wallis also offers Wallis Petite, specifically designed for women 5'3" in height or under.

Mark your calendars and go check out Wallis right on opening day.

Wallis is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Robinsons Specialty Stores Inc., which is also the exclusive franchisee for Topshop, Topman and Dorothy Perkins in the country.

IT'S ALL about color in the A/W '07 collection, as in this color panel dress.

EXPOSED trims are important; tomato jacket with visible zips is worn with a clashing purple knit.



LEATHER jacket in natural, worn over pretty blouse, wide belt and wide-legged pants, all from Wallis

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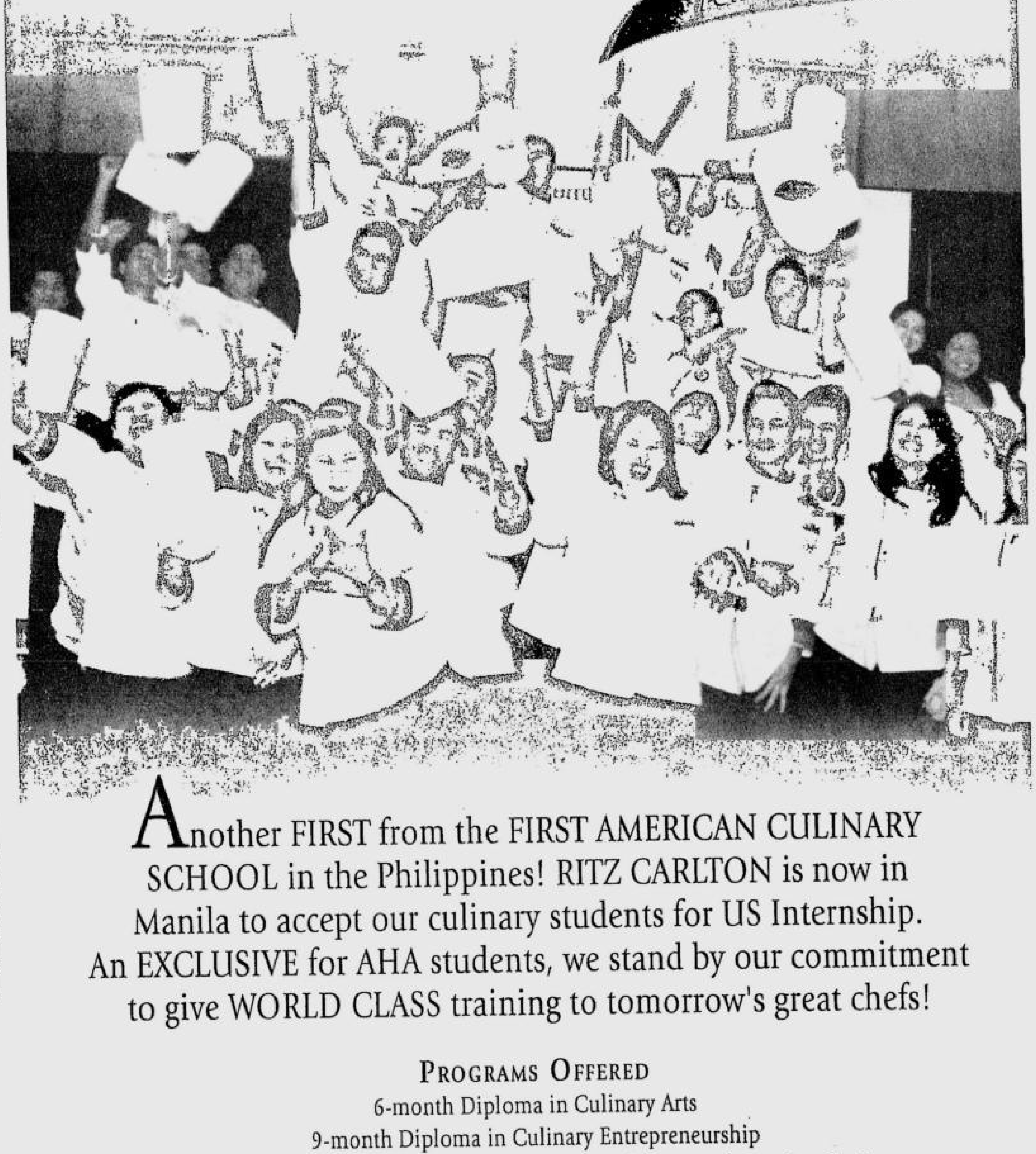

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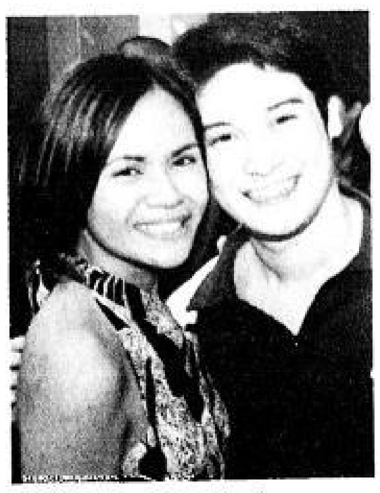
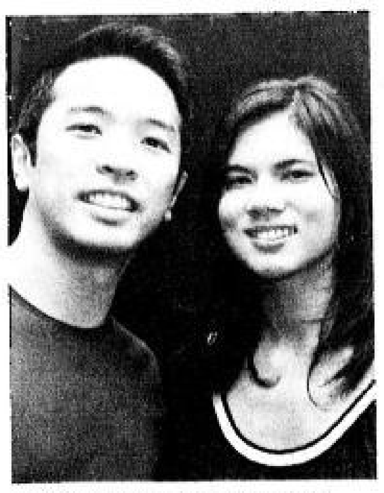
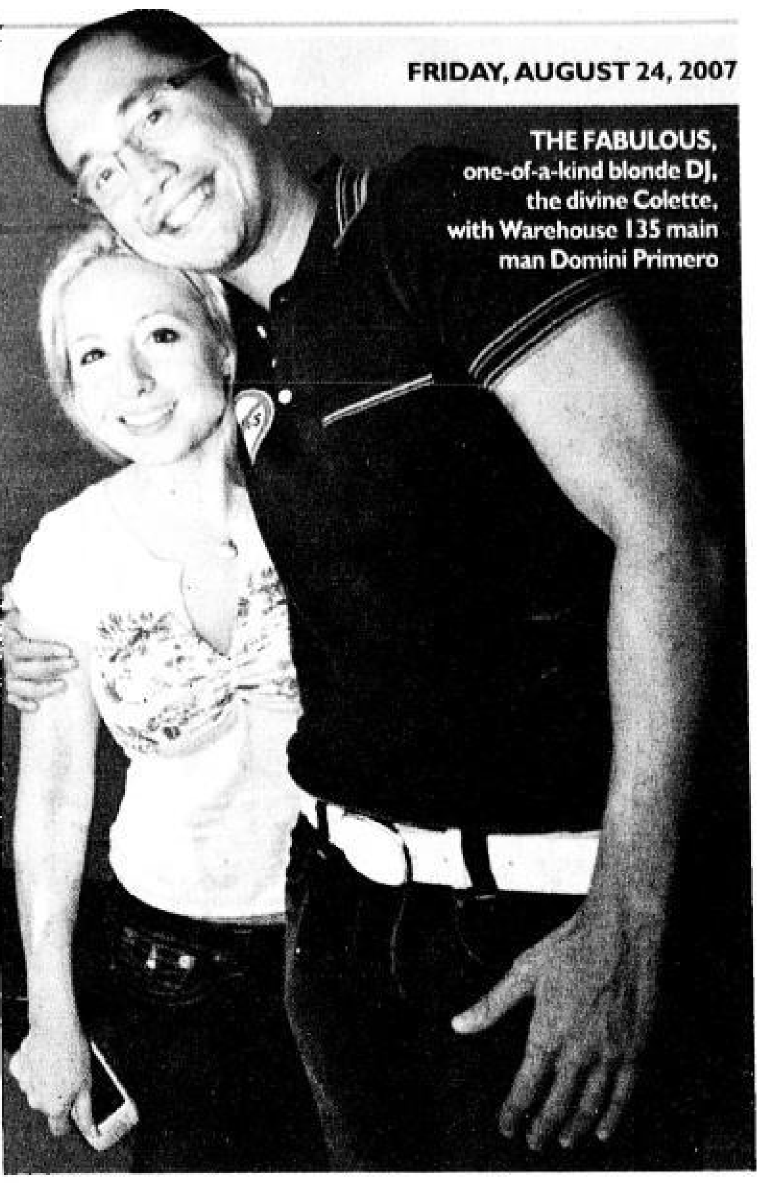

MAY Lepaspi and Charles Togezaki

LOUIE Kaw and Vanna Garcia

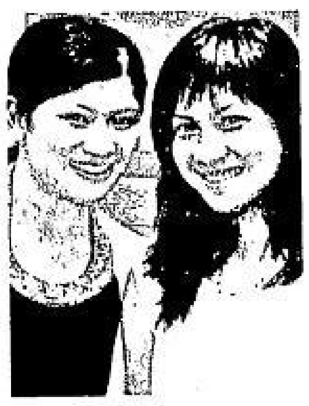

GABBY Katigbak with Marie Pineda

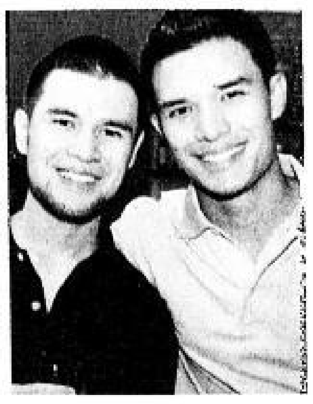
FUN night out for Raymond and Tricie Mojica


THE FABULOUS, one-of-a-kind blonde DJ, the divine Colette, with Warehouse 135 main man Domini Primero

WAREHOUSE followers Derek Bocalan and Ash Mirpuri

ALEX Villanueva and Jimwell Stevens


HEAD-TURNERS Girlie Sevilla and Diana Zubiri


HANDSOME brothers Nico and Karl Favila

DJ music perks up energy-driven Manila

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

PERKY, ATTRACTIVE BLONDE, **DJ Colette**, surely seemed like Aphrodite in her human form when she played the fab, hypnotizing music in her third time in the Philippines.

The popular Warehouse 135 and Driven broke ground for the comeback of this sizzling ball of talent, dahlings: a DJ who produces her own tracks and does her own vocals. Her tracks are, hands down, a mighty winner! And that's Colette for you, *palanggas*.

Believe me, it was pure bliss, *palanggas*, watching and listening to Colette and obviously this third time. But it seemed like the first time for everyone at Warehouse 135.

Moi was told about the head count for that night. People filled the club, crowding the dance floor and singing along with Colette, who gave them a dose of her music to last them till her next visit!

Opening for Colette that night was Driven's DJ **Ali Nepomuceno**, who played a deep, über sexy Chicago House. A toast to this young gent for his talent and skills that seem to have improved threefold in each appearance he makes.

Congratulations to Driven Manila and Warehouse 135 as well as the event's major sponsors—Winston, Smart Gold, Chivas and ABC 5—for bringing back Colette.

24/7 race

We have had many races around towns lately. Recently, *palanggas*, there was the first 24-hour race with a cool P240,000 cash prize. We are referring to the Mac Tonight Mad Dash, which started at midnight and involved 24 teams racing to 24-hour McDonald's stores around Manille.

There were three celebrity teams. Armed with maps, cash and a race card to get them to the next pit stop, the teams roamed our town, stopping over the McDonald's 24/7 stores along the way. And take note, dahlings, they got around using public utility vehicles—from jeepneys to tricycles and the MRT and LRT lines.

Kick-off point was McDonald's Las Piñas. The teams raced all the way to the finish line at McDonald's Quezon Avenue.

Moi can't believe that all the teams competed for the race, which was a test of physical and mental endurance, *palanggas*.

"At the moment, we have over 50 24-hour stores in Metro Manila, four in Cebu, one in Cagayan de Oro and two in Davao," said McDonald's vice president for marketing **Margot Torres**. "However, it's one thing to tell everybody that we're open 24 hours and it's another thing to tell them where the stores are located. So, we thought the best way to let them know is to bring them to the stores."

Twenty-four McDonald's stores later, Team Twister Fries' **Victor Basa** and **Carla Humphries** reached the finish line. Half of the cash prize of P240,000 would go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities while the other half will be donated to the team's charity, the Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group.

For the non-celebrity teams, it was Team BA's **Aris Amarillo** and **Jazzy Martinez** who won first place. They received their check for P240,000 with Big Mac smiles.

Hey, with McDonald's 24/7, late-night workers, late partygoers and early-morning risers can dash over for their favorite McDonald's fix all day and all night, *palanggas*.

New mobile styles

Beyoncé's fab song "Irreplaceable" had many singing or humming it, *palanggas*, during Samsung's awesome Hitstop bash at Fiamma, dahlings.

That night was the grand debut of Samsung Mobile music phones, the F300, E740 and X830, which are the hippest cell phones of the hour.

Après tons of cocktail finger food and endless booze, the party people were all ears when Samsung's hot VP for mobile phones, **Charles Choi**, got the party on a roll by giving a brief background about the Samsung Hitstop, which is already a smashing hit among music aficionados—a great gadget "in creating life's most memorable moments."

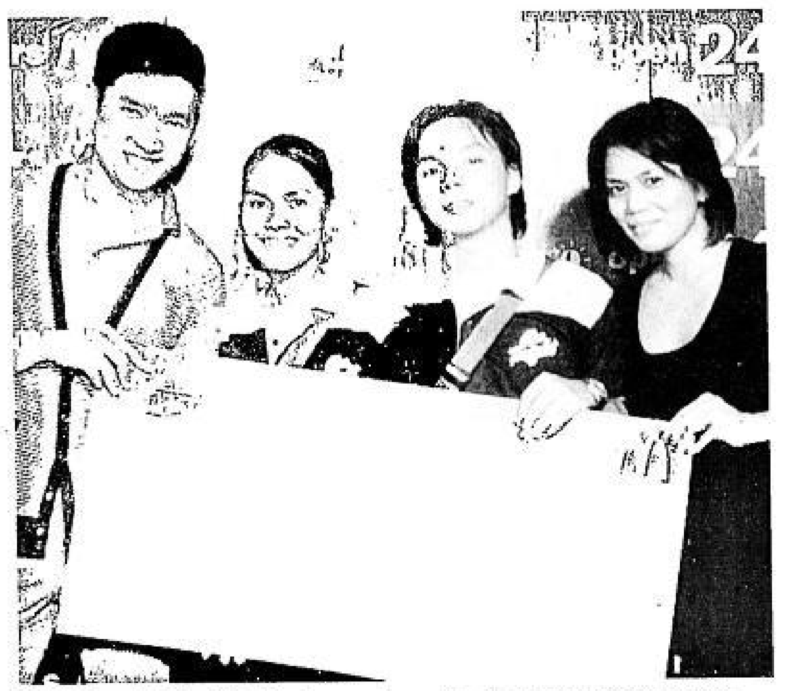
Moi could hardly inch my way to a spot where *moi* could watch the superb designs of Vittorio, which were donned by models sashaying up and down the silver and white industrial stairs of Fiamma.

Metallics and matte cardigans and tees were paired with cargo pants and jeans, which completed the look.

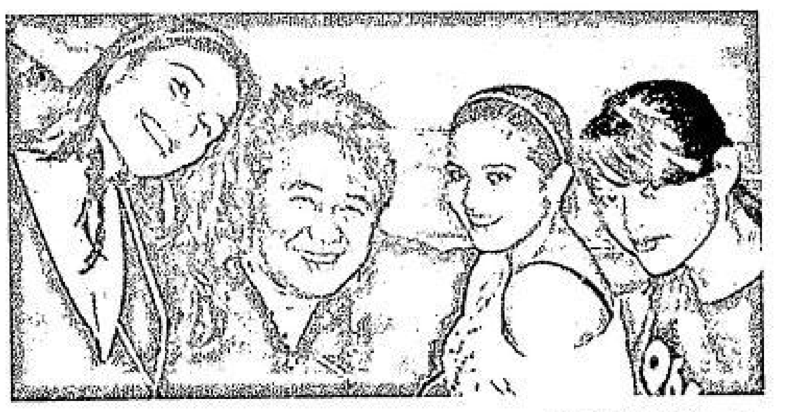
Naturellement, Samsung's three new debutantes made the overall style all the more hipper.

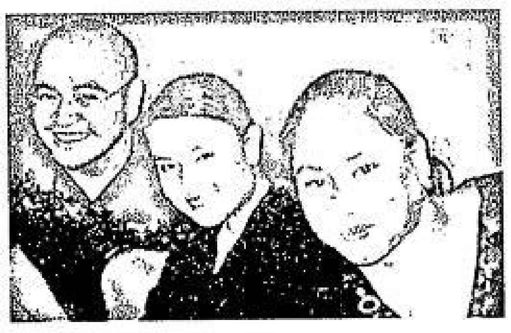
Catching Samsung's totally cool scene were Samsung F300 ambassadors such as young actress and model **Denise Laurel**; race-car driver and host **Gaby dela Merced**; actor and MYX VJ **Geoff Eigenmann**; and Magic 89.9 jock and MTV VJ **Andi Manzano**.

Hey, *palanggas*, check this out: Every Wednesday night will be Samsung Hitstop night until Sept. 12 at Fiamma on Jupiter Street, Makati. Drop by in your coolest and hippest getup, *palanggas*.


TIM Yap with Mad Dash winners Jazzy Martinez and Aris Amarillo, and McDonald's Barbie Ocampo

DRIVEN'S top asset DJ Ali Nepomuceno


DIRECTOR Mario J. de los Reyes (second from left) with Iza Calzado, Sunshine Dizon and Joanne Primero


ROLDAN Capito, Hilary Bautista and Marcy Lim

HEY, like my Samsung X830?

MIKEE Carreon

ANA Leah Modelo and Sheryl Sta. Ana of White Black Berry

CHARLES Lester and Dyna Rose of McKoolet

SARAH Lois Balite and Djosef Anoy Yutankin of McDuo

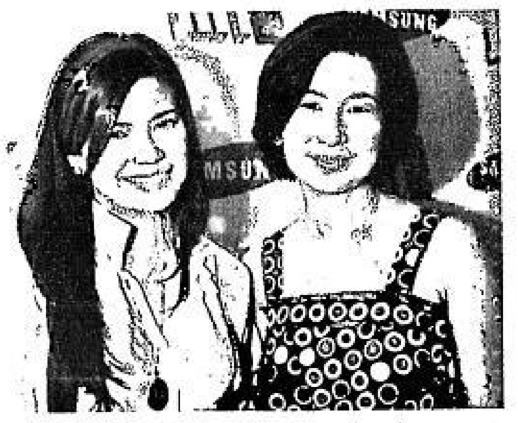
DAVID Baylon and John Anthony Dyangko of Cobra

SAICY Aguila and Robert Wood

TEAM Twister Fries celebrity winners: actress Carla Humphries and model Victor Basa

GEOFF Eigenmann

SAMSUNG'S Pen Roque and Yam Marquez


F300 ambassador Denise Laurel and Samsung head for mobile phones Fe Varilla

BEAUTIFUL faces at Fiamma: Sonia Smith, Marilen Faustino, Bubbles Paraiso and Bianca Valerio

JUNJUN Lopez, Mags Lopez, Naisa Santos and Trina Sunico

FIAMMA'S Paolo Trillo

SAMSUNG Channel manager Mark Sergio; Samsung VP for mobile phones Charles Choi; First Asia Mobile Inc. general manager Eddie Chen; Commworks chief executive officer Martin Leyeza

Department store boosts beauty with promo

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT Store (RDS) is holding "Timeless Beauty" for the whole month of August, featuring makeup brands, prizes and discounts at the Health & Beauty Aids, Cosmetics and Perfumery departments.

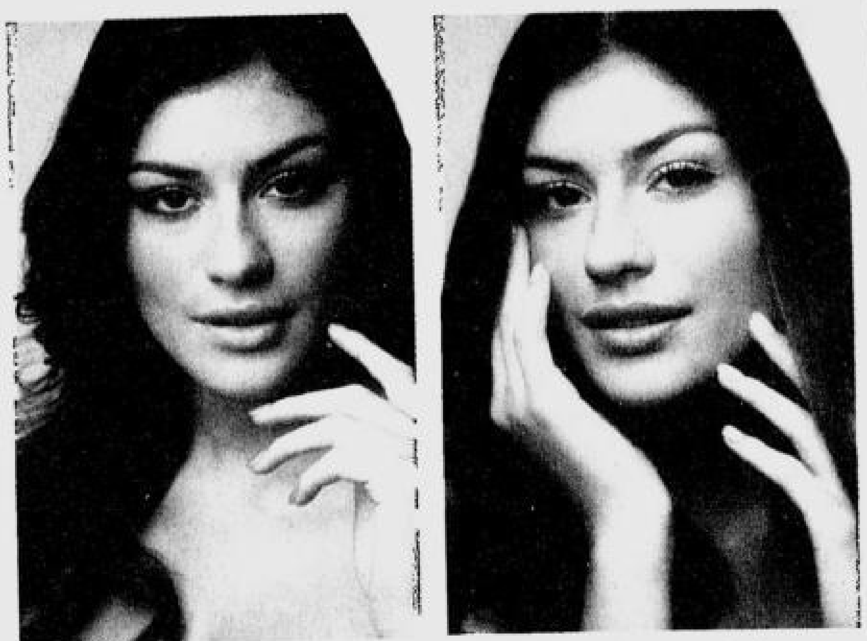
The promotion seeks to help women achieve the look that they want—dramatic, monochrome, playful or natural.

Wearing the wrong makeup hues may make women look tired and betray skin imperfections.

Thus, understanding and choosing makeup colors that flatter one's face can make a big difference in fashioning one's look.

For beauty tips, drop by RDS and check out products from L'Oreal, Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo, Pond's, Dove, Sunsilk, Revlon, Max Factor, Olay, Block & White, Colgate, Palmolive and Nivea.

Get a chance to win a three-day, two-night vacation package plus pocket money. Destinations include Bali, Indonesia and Phuket, Thailand. The raffle ticket is for every P300 purchase from Health & Beauty Aids, Cosmetics & Perfumery Departments.



THE RIGHT makeup and colors are important to bring out your best features. Check out Robinsons Department Store's "Timeless Beauty" this August for great makeup buys and discounts.

Do you want to be a supermodel?

NOW ON ITS 9TH SUCCESSFUL YEAR, Runway Productions kicks off the Supermodel of the World Philippines 2007 Search.

Any natural born Filipina who is at least 14 years of age and has a valid Philippine passport may apply as long as she also has clear skin as well as good bone structure, good teeth, proportional body measurements and a positive attitude.

Applicants must bring a black mini dress, heels and swimwear. No makeup, please.

Runway Productions was established by the Espino brothers Audie and Joey in 1982 who began their career as fashion show directors/producers.

Stand out from the rest with a blemish free skin.

"KC" Israel
Student Icamanila

... Dark circles around the eye disappear by 40% in just 7 days...
... Erase pimples overnight...
... Erase facial scars by 10% in just 14 days...
... Natural skin blush in just 14 days...
... Erase freckles by 20% in 14 days, 80% in 30 days...
... Skin pigmentation reduced by 10% in 14 days, 60% in 60 days...
... Minimize pores by 40% in 14 days...
... Wrinkles reduced by 20% in 14 days...

NORA DELA ROSA PROMO SERVICES WITH 50% DISCOUNT	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
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6672
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # A3-0654, SERIES OF 2007

GOINGS ON

Denim festival ongoing

STA. LUCIA EAST DEPARTMENT Store holds its annual Denim and T-Shirt Festival until Aug. 31. Shoppers can enjoy up to 50-percent discount on selected items. Free umbrellas await the first 500 shoppers with a minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000 of any denim and shirt brand. Present your receipts at the customer service counter to claim your freebies. Meanwhile, the mall also holds a health and wellness fair until Aug. 31. Highlights of the fair are the makeover and product demonstrations. First 500 shoppers can also get free umbrellas by presenting a minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000. Call 6815181.

BIOLOGY WEEK. The Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences of the University of the Philippines-Manila holds the 16th Biology Week 2007 with the theme "Global Warming: A Global Warning (Biology at the Forefront of the Global Warming Issue)." The weeklong event kicked off last Aug. 21. A variety show, Biogyugan is set today. Call 5265861.

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP. "Thinking Beyond the Box (Developing Your Creativity)," a one-day workshop for teachers is set on Aug. 25 at Hotel Dominique in Tagaytay City. Call 6479054.

SEMINAR. Learningville presents "Like Tasting Sugar: An Experiential Learning of Positive Discipline," Aug. 25, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, at Learningville Center, 59 Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. The seminar-workshop is designed for parents, caregivers and teachers of young children who exhibit typical behavioral problems. Roy Iranta, counselor, training specialist and life coach from the Center of Family Ministries at Ateneo de Manila University will facilitate the workshop. Limited slots available. Call 4343506 or e-mail learningville@gmail.com.

CANISTER DESIGN CONTEST. Nickelodeon has launched the Canister Design Contest for kids 14 years old and below. This year's theme is "Share." Entries should be received by Aug. 25 at Nickelodeon, 3/F, Silver City Mall, Frontera Drive, Julia Vargas cor. E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Pasig. Include your name, age, address, contact number and e-mail address.

BOOK FAIR. The 28th Manila International Book Fair is set on Aug. 29-Sept. 2 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay. Call 8900661 or 8960682; e-mail bookfair @primetradeasia.com.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Librarians Association NCR, National Book Store and Anvil Publishing, Inc. will host a seminar on Preparing Libraries for Emergencies and Disasters by Heather Mansell, the chief librarian of the State Library of New South Wales in Australia, on Aug. 30. The talk will focus on useful techniques in preparing library collections from all types of natural disasters. Participants can also avail of special prices on all titles displayed at the Anvil booth during the event. There will also be a daily raffle draw. Call 6375141/5692.

CONCERT. Christian pianist Enoch Fernando will perform for Church of God Makati's building fund project, on Sept. 9, 7 p.m., at the Philam Life Theater, UN Avenue-Manila. Call 8105366.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines and CHILD Foundation Inc. will hold its 2007 postgraduate course "Subspecialty Alerts in General Pediatrics," Sept. 12-13, at the Century Park Hotel. The course aims to give pediatricians and general practitioners basic management skills for childhood diseases. Call 5240892 or 5218450 locals 2101 or 2107.

SEMINAR. Marc Thomas Ablaza, an executive of Ablaza Pawnshops and Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines, will conduct a seminar dubbed "Strengthen Your Pawnshop Business," Sept. 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Quezon City Sports Club, QC. Call 7400047, 7498740 or 7325151 local 213.

PHOTO EVENT. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation presents Photoworld Asia 2008, Jan. 31-Feb. 5, 2008, at Glorietta, Makati. Seminars will be held at the Asian Institute of Management. The trade fair will feature photographers and photo suppliers from Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Philippines and Taiwan. Call 5247576 or 5280371.

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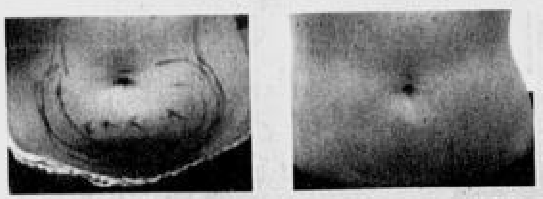

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PMAP former presidents with Jackie Aquino: Baba Parma, Rissa Samson, Den Abesamis, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales, Desiree Abesamis, Apples Aberin-Sadhawani and Leo Rabago

PARTICIPATING designers of the 20th PMAP anniversary gala. First row: Vittorio Barba, Joey Samson, Ivarluski Aseron, Gerry Katigbak, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Renee Salud and Randy Ortiz. Second row: Rhett Eala, Jesus Lloren, Marden Iglesias, Rajo Laurel, Avel Bacudio and Frederick Peralta. Top row: Dennis Lustico, Anthony Nocom and Antonio Garcia

Has it really been 20 years?

The first models' guild marks two decades of guiding and protecting its members

CLEAR THE RUNWAY FOR THE 20th anniversary of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP) next month.

To celebrate two decades of being the most prestigious modeling organization in the country, PMAP is holding a grand get-together of all its current and past members, plus the fashion designers, directors, makeup artists and other industry stalwarts who have helped them along the way.

It is by no means a modest reunion of generations of models and designers. As a fashion event sponsored by super aggressive and high-profile Samsung, "Twenty Years of PMAP" promises to combine glamour, style and tradition.

Counted in are esteemed fashion designers Inno Sotto and Auggie Cordero, as well as seasoned designers Lulu Tan Gan, Mike de la Rosa, Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Anthony Nocom, Randy Ortiz, Frederick Peralta, Renee Salud, Gerry Katigbak and Patrice Ramos Diaz.

STYLISTS for the 20th-anniversary show: Patrick Rosas, Marlon Suarez, Eric Maningat and Noel Jimenez

It will be exciting to see their clothes play against the lines of the younger designers.

The show will also feature the collections of Ivarluski Aseron, Avel Bacudio, Vittorio Barba, Antonio Garcia, Marden Iglesias and Joey Samson.

The first of its kind in Asia, PMAP is an organization run by models for models.

When it was founded in February 1987, it was meant not only "to uplift, protect and professionalize the modeling industry in the Philippines" but also to develop and stabilize national and international awareness, participation, involvement and competition in the field of modeling."

Through the years, PMAP has served as a key force in the development and upgrading of modelling as a trade.

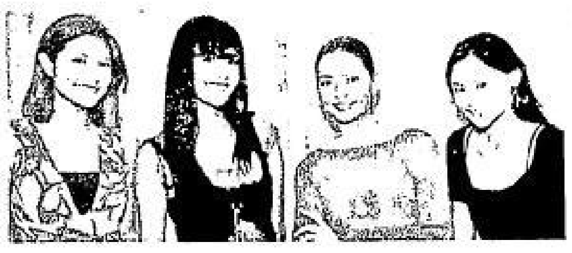
"PMAP ensures that the best breed of models maintains professionalism in their work," says president Rissa Mananquil-Samson. "It also protects models from exploitation as it makes sure models work reasonable hours and are compensated based on standard rates. The PMAP also fosters a good relationship among models, directors, clients and producers."

To set the record straight, the PMAP is not an agency. Rather, it is a cross between an association and a union of models.

"As a union we are vocal about our rights. As an association, we have a vision of what we want to become in the future," says Tina Maristela-Ocampo, one of the PMAP cofounders with the country's top models at the time.

Beyond the organization's professional commitments, PMAP has also hosted community programs and social projects for such beneficiaries as Tahanan Sta. Luisa, Habitat for Humanity, Jesus Loves the Little Children and Hospicio de San Jose.

The PMAP has also participated in fundraising projects for the Word Wildlife Foundation of the Philippines and Bantay Kalikasan.



CURRENT PMAP board: Bubbles Paraiso, Valerie de los Santos, Rissa Samson and Marilen Faustino

It's time to avoid Trans Fat!

It's time to get healthy! It's time to be aware that some of the most common food you eat have something very bad for you: Trans Fat.

What is Trans Fat?
There are four kinds of fats: monounsaturated fat, polyunsaturated fat, saturated fat, and Trans Fat. Monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat are the "good" fats. Saturated fat is the "bad" fat people have long been warned to avoid. Trans Fat however is the worst kind of fat.

Proven Unhealthy
From the World Health Organization to the U.S. Food and Drug Authority, there have been many recent warnings about the health problems Trans Fat can cause. In an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 13, 2006, the researchers detail evidence linking Trans Fat consumption to increased risk of coronary heart disease, sudden cardiac death, and diabetes. Trans Fat from partially hydrogenated oils have harmful effects on blood lipids, promote inflammation, and cause blood-vessel abnormalities, all of which are risk factors, for heart disease.

Common Foods with Trans Fat
The majority of Trans Fat can be found in cookies, crackers, snack foods, fried fast food, doughnuts, pastries, baked goods, and other processed foods made with or fried in partially hydrogenated oils.

Try to avoid Trans Fat as much as you can. Read the labels of the packaged food you buy. Look at the ingredient list. Don't eat any product which has the words "partially hydrogenated" or "shortening" on the ingredient list.

Go for Zero Trans Fat
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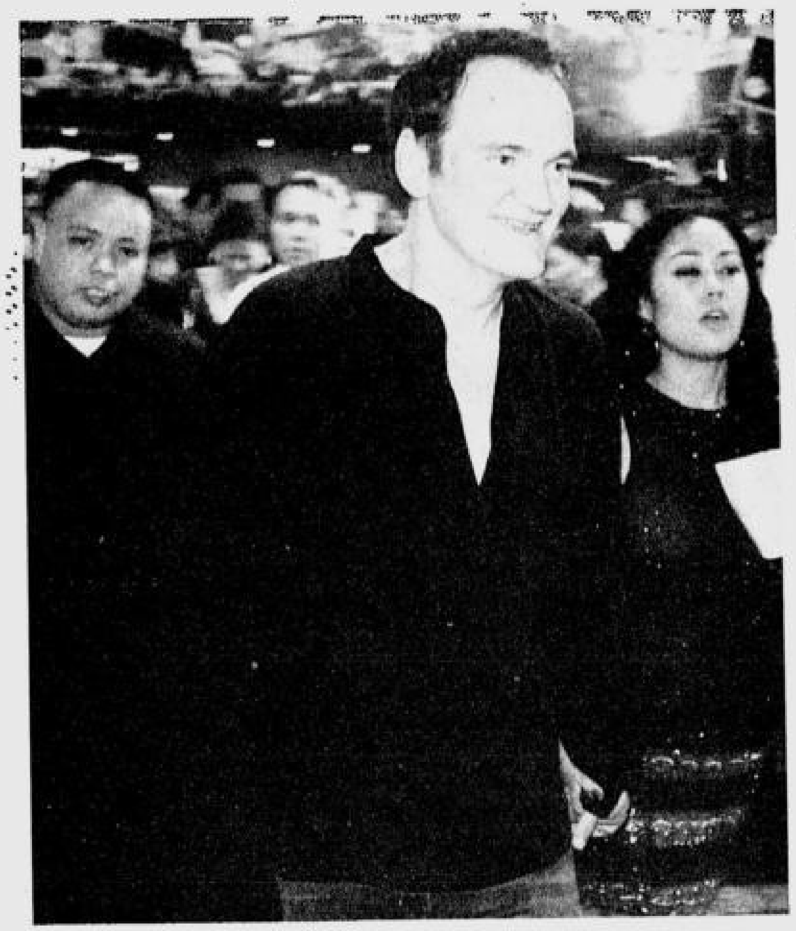

CELEBRITY filmmaker says he's a writer first and foremost.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Deconstructing Tarantino

or, The 'little spider's' stratagem

By Constantino C. Tejero

"GOSH, I'M A LITTLE SHY right now," says American film auteur Quentino Tarantino when he sees a jam-packed Cinemanila workshop-forum at Gateway Mall in Cubao.

But the moment he rises from his seat and struts around while talking—from "Rio Bravo" to Tolstoy, from Samuel Fuller to Eugene O'Neill—we see he is in his element.

Script and literature

Tarantino is an auteur in the original sense of that word concocted by the French New Wavers in the late 1950s, which is, a director who has managed to put his personal stamp from film to film.

It is inevitable, as he is one of the few Hollywood directors who write their own scripts. A Tarantino film is often stylish, characterized by over-the-top violence, in-your-face dialogue, all-out genre-bending.

He has made only five features—"Reservoir Dogs," "Pulp Fiction," "Jackie Brown," "Kill Bill" and "Death Proof"—but so strong is the personality behind these films that, in less than a decade, his name has entered the lexicon: *Tarantinoesque*.

"I am a writer," he says to film students in the workshop-forum. "I don't consider myself a scriptwriter. For me, writing a screenplay is as serious as writing a novel. My screenplay is literature. You're not just reading a blueprint—you're reading a piece of art. F--k the movie! I'm more concerned with the written word."

What he means is, a good screenplay should be able to stand independent of the resultant film.

"I want to be one of the greatest writers of the 21st century," he tells his now-awestruck audience. "I'm not saying I deserve it. I'm saying, I want."

Classics and genres

So strong is his identification with literature that a simple revenge tale he split into two films and each one he called a "volume," as if he wanted to impress upon moviegoers that they were face to face with a ponderous Russian novel.

His gestation period as filmmaker was when he was growing up in the '70s. It was the decade of the Hollywood Renaissance, churning out the Coppolas, the Scorseses, the Woody Allens.

He also remembers watching John Flynn's "Rolling Thunder," "Carrie" ("De Palma—he was my man"), Gerry de Leon's "Women in Cages," Sergio Leone's "For a Few Dollars More."

He longs for those hot Scandinavian, Italian and German movies, and compares "Eyes Wide Shut," Stanley Kubrick's final masterpiece, as something of a joke—because who would want to watch a non-sexy sex movie? He considers the '80s the worst decade in American movie history.

The adolescent in him must have seen the experience as one unreeling screen where classics were indistinguishable from junk. Now we can see why his movies feel like the nighttime emission of the perpetual adolescent.

He says he's "pissed off a little bit" to have to explain his movies.

Influence and source

His characteristic bold technique is richly displayed in "Kill Bill," an unlikely blend of tenderness, irony and mayhem, represented by Bruce Lee's kung fu wedded to the boulevard song from François Ozon's "A Summer Dress."

Those B-grade Asian movies are not merely influential on his filmmaking. They're the lifeblood of his art.

"Reservoir Dogs," the debut feature which catapulted him to international celebrity-hood in 1992, has not only borrowed the plot from Ringo Lam's "City on Fire." It is a virtual adaptation, if not, indeed, an actual remake, of the 1987 Hong Kong movie.

Some scenes he has even replicated shot for shot, blocking for blocking. The infamous cutting-of-the-ear scene has a counterpart in the stabbing-of-the-hand in Lam's movie.

(Lam's narrative is more complex but faster, more charming and tragic because more human, less show-offish, less sentimental, and Chow Yun-Fat is certainly more empathetic than either Tim Roth or Harvey Keitel.)

Speaking of lexicon, an Italian-speaking friend says the name could have its root word in *taranto*, or "spider," thus its diminutive *tarantino* is "little spider." It could be, as this filmmaker has the sting and the skill to weave a web like his namesake.

DID YOU KNOW...

Elliott Yamin in RP this month

"AMERICAN IDOL" sensation Elliott Yamin is coming to Manila to spark the interest of fans of the reality show and Filipino music lovers. Characterized as having a "raw" and "gritty" voice, the whiskey-soaked tenor is known for placing third in the fifth season of the much-coveted televised singing competition in a close race between Taylor Hicks and Katherine McPhee. Ayala Malls hosts Yamin's concert series at Trinoma on Sept. 21, Glorietta on Sept. 22, Market! Market! on Sept. 23, Ayala Center Cebu on Sept. 26 and Alabang Town Center on Sept. 28.

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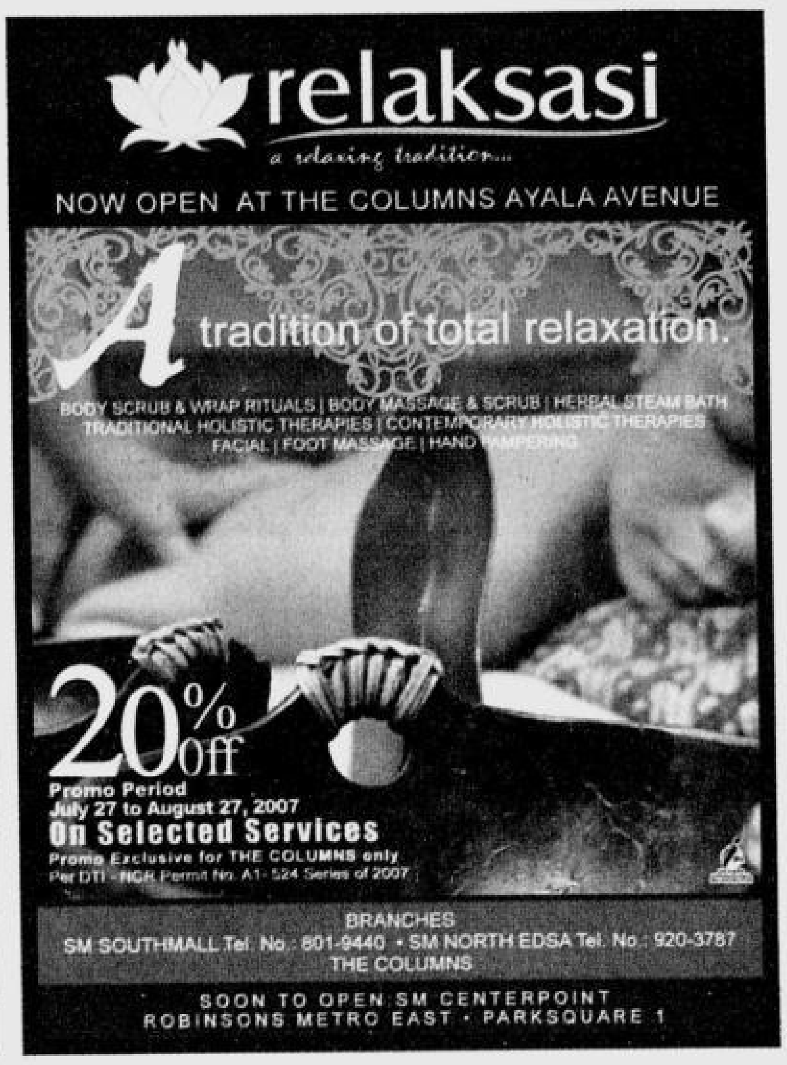

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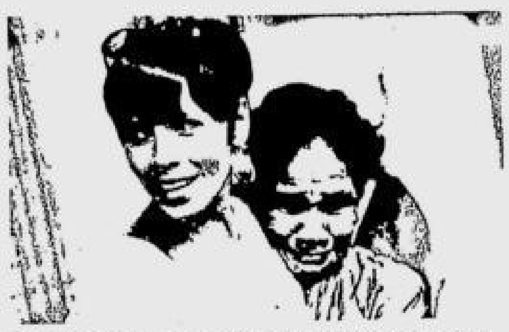
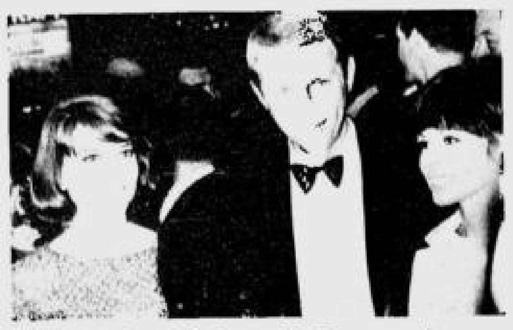


IN NEILE Adams' sentimental journey back to Manila in 1966, she had a tearful reunion with Chia, right, who took care of her as a child.



NEILE, right, with Steve McQueen and Natalie Wood at the Paris premiere of "Love with the Proper Stranger" in 1964.

Steve McQueen's Manila-born wife . . .

From page E4

you like yours to match in spirit and tone?

I liked "Ray," "Walk the Line" and "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers." My book's spirit and tone will set the movie apart from the others simply because the stories of these two people before they got together are unusually dramatic.

Will the movie focus strictly on your life with Steve?

It will cover our lives as a very young couple.

What qualities will you be looking for in actors who will audition to play Steve?

The actor must have the qualities that Steve had. He was both playful and brooding. He saw the world through the eyes of a child. That's why he was great with kids. He had the instincts of an animal. He was very American. One got the feeling that here was a man who could be very dangerous. I'd rather not say who I would like to play Steve.

For actresses who may want to audition to play you, what qualities will you be looking for?

Anyone can play me as long as they fit the bill. The director and producers will have to come up with the character description. I'm not as objective about me.

Can you share some basic details about your mother, a singer-dancer who was known as "Miami, Pearl of the Orient"?

Her name was **Carmen Salvador.** She was born in Barcelona to a German mother and Spanish father.

What is your reaction to the following comments from Publisher's Weekly: "Like [her husband Steve], she was neglected by a promiscuous mother."

I think they got it right. I can't elaborate.

What do you recall when you immigrated as a young girl to the US?

It was lonely, difficult. Yet I was very happy to be in a boarding school surrounded by welcoming kids who didn't know me. I worked hard and mastered what was required of me. I was not close to my mother. She never worked again as an entertainer and she passed away on March 1, 1977.

When you and Steve were in Taiwan for the shoot of "The Sand Pebbles," you made a trip to the Philippines for the first time after 17 years. How did that go?

I was in Manila for a week. I wanted to see what the city, especially Santo Tomas, would look like to my grown-up eyes. I saw my mother's brother and the woman who raised me. I saw a friend I went to school with. Her name was Sara.

Can you share the story behind that dramatic photo obviously taken during your visit to Manila? Who was "Binoy's wife"?

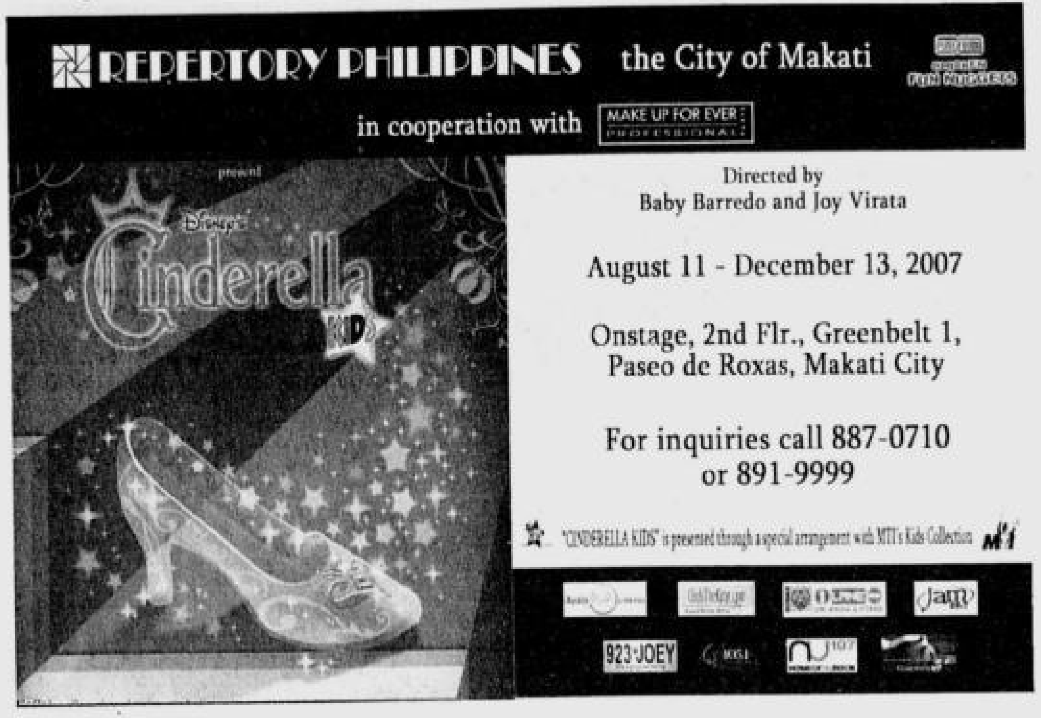
After the Spanish-American War, my grandfather, who had fought on the Spanish side, went back to Spain to get my grandmother, my mother and my uncle (Lou Salvador Sr.). He liked Manila and felt a special kinship with Filipinos. He hired a young Filipino named Binoy who was 16 at the time. Binoy took care of my mother and uncle. My grandfather passed away and, soon after, my grandmother. Binoy stayed with my mother, who was 14 at the time and my uncle Lou, who was a little older. When I was born, Binoy took care of me while my mother traveled around the world as a singer/dancer. Chia came into our household when she married Binoy. They had three children.

When we left Manila, my mother bought them a house, where they lived for the rest of their lives. I loved them both very much. I don't know what happened to their children.

Can you talk about your father?

I never met my father.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



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glorietta	Ansons Exhibit August 20 to September 2, 2007 at the Activity Center
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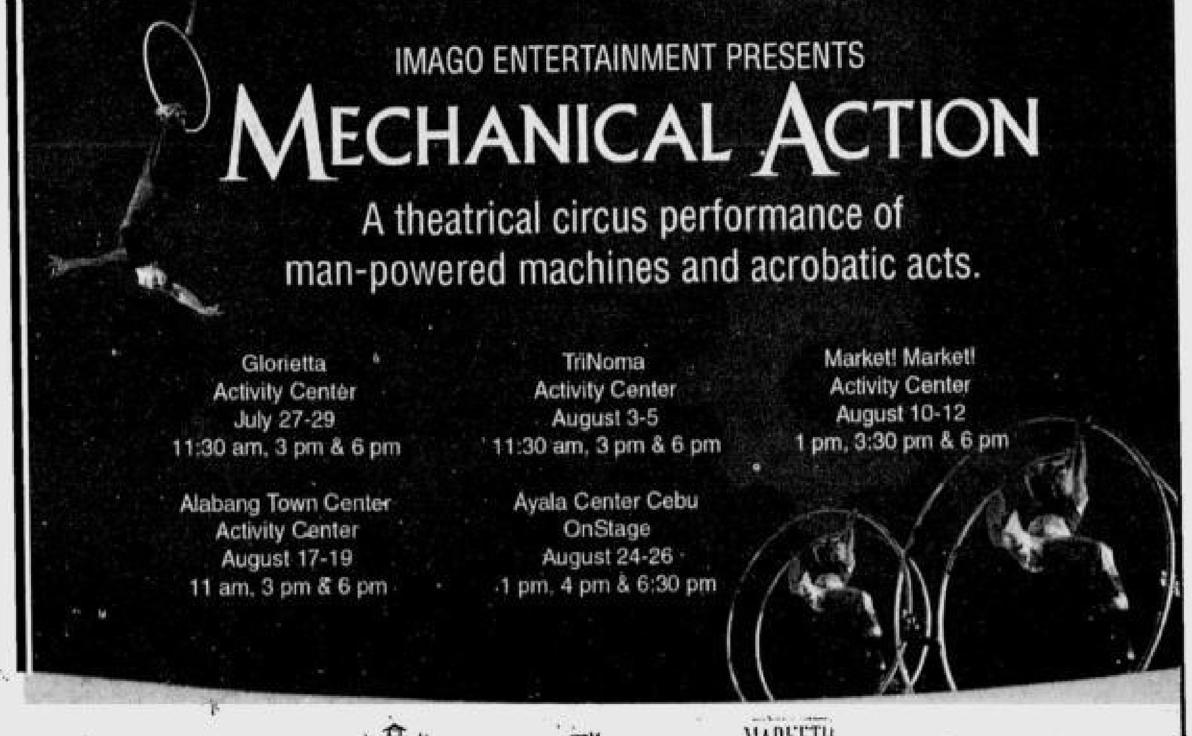

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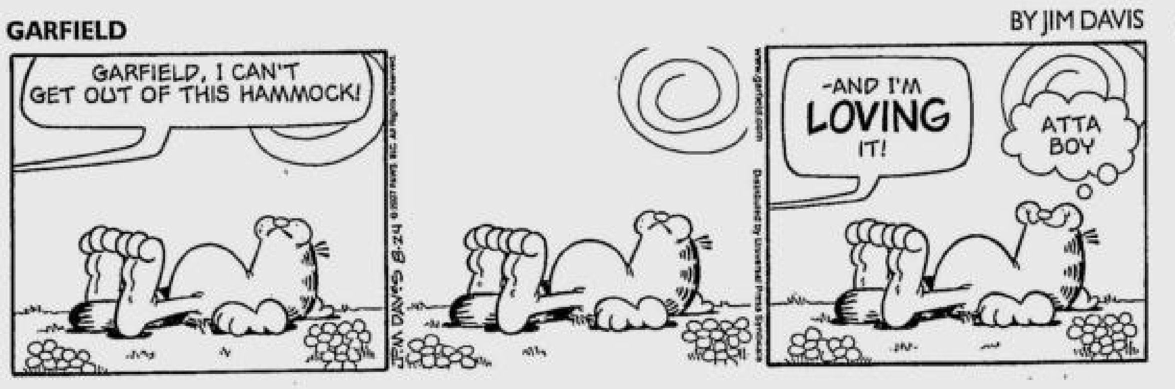
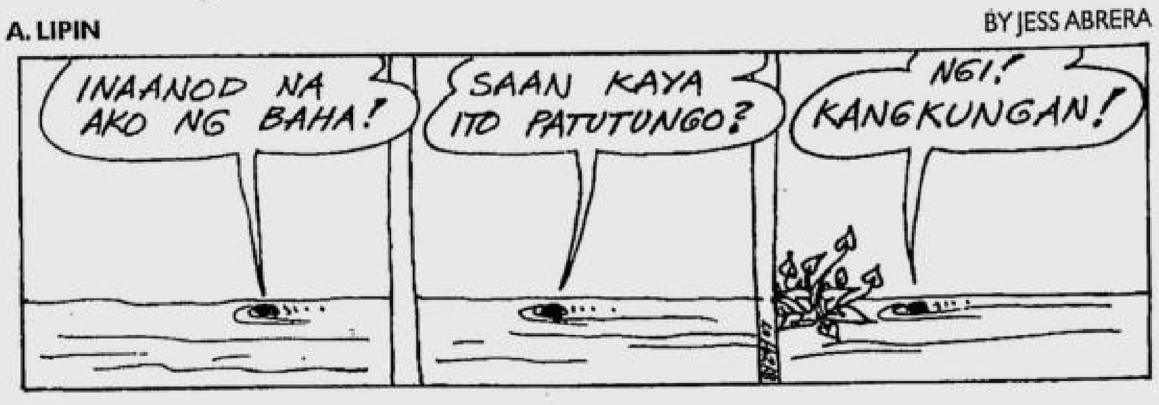
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD, I CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS HAMMOCK!
-AND I'M LOVING IT!
ATTA BOY

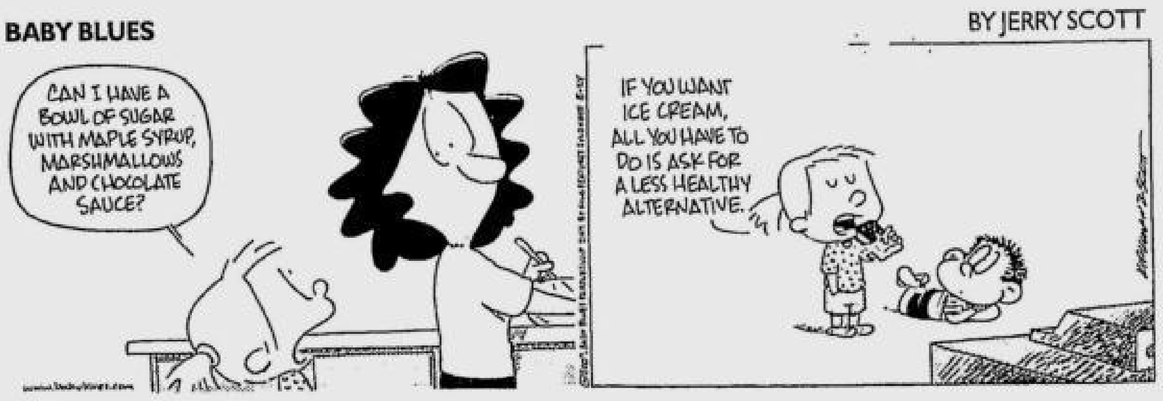
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


INAANOD NA AKO NG BAHA!
SAAN KAYA ITO PATUTUNGO?
NGI! KANGKUNGAN!

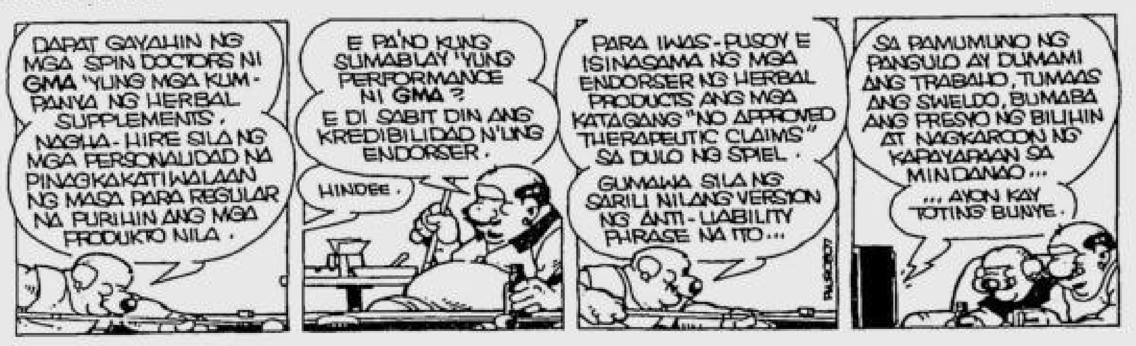
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I HAVE A BOWL OF SUGAR WITH MAPLE SYRUP, MARSHMALLOWS AND CHOCOLATE SAUCE?
IF YOU WANT ICE CREAM, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK FOR A LESS HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE.

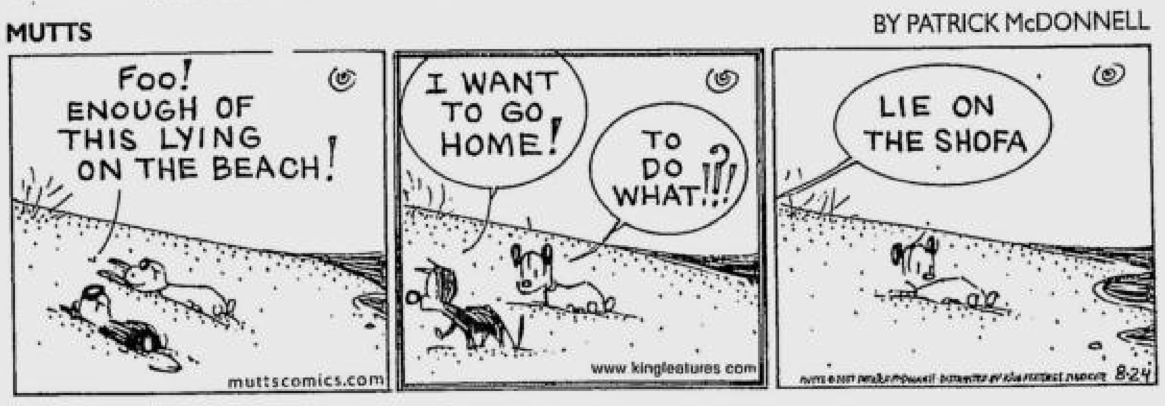
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT GAYAHIN NG MGA SPIN DOCTORS NI GMA 'YUNG MGA KUMPANYA NG HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS. NAGHA-HIRE SILA NG MGA PERSONALIDAD NA PINAGKAKATIWALAAN NG MASA PARA REGULAR NA PURIHIN ANG MGA PRODUKTO NILA.
E PA'NO KUNG SUMABLAY 'YUNG PERFORMANCE NI GMA? E DI SABIT DIN ANG KREDIBILIDAD N'UNG ENDORSER.
HINDEE.
PARA IWAS-PUSOY E ISINASAMA NG MGA ENDORSER NG HERBAL PRODUCTS ANG MGA KATAGANG "NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS" SA DULO NG SPIEL.
GUMAWA SILA NG SARILI NILANG VERSION NG ANTI-LIABILITY PHRASE NA ITO...
SA PAMUMUNO NG PANGULO AY DUMAMI ANG TRABAHO, TUMAAS ANG SWELDO, BUMABA ANG PRESYO NG BILIHIN AT NAGKAROON NG KAPAYAPAAN SA MINDANAO...
...AYON KAY TOTING BUNYE.

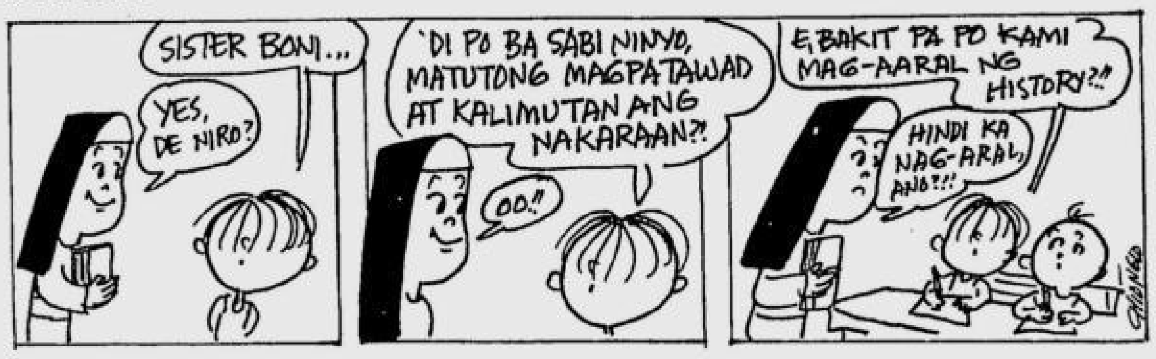
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FOO! ENOUGH OF THIS LYING ON THE BEACH!
I WANT TO GO HOME!
TO DO WHAT!?!
LIE ON THE SHOFA
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
8-24

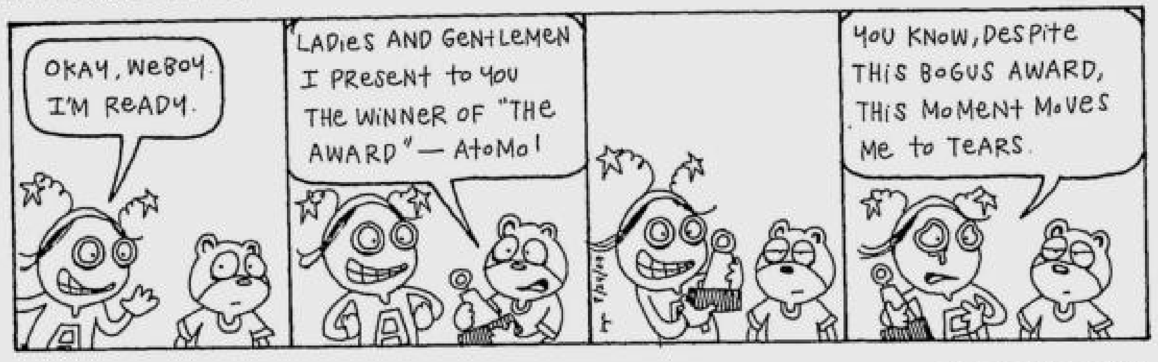
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI...
YES, DE NIRO?
'DI PO BA SABI NINYO, MATUTONG MAGPATAWAD AT KALIMUTAN ANG NAKARAAN?!
OO!!
E, BAKIT PA PO KAMI MAG-AARAL NG HISTORY?!
HINDI KA NAG-ARAL, ANO?!

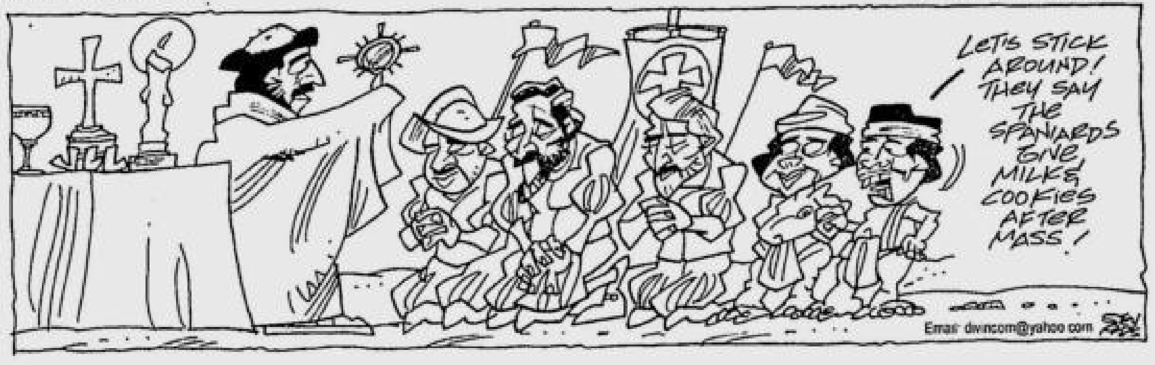
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, WEBOY. I'M READY.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I PRESENT TO YOU THE WINNER OF "THE AWARD" — ATOMO!
YOU KNOW, DESPITE THIS BOGUS AWARD, THIS MOMENT MOVES ME TO TEARS.

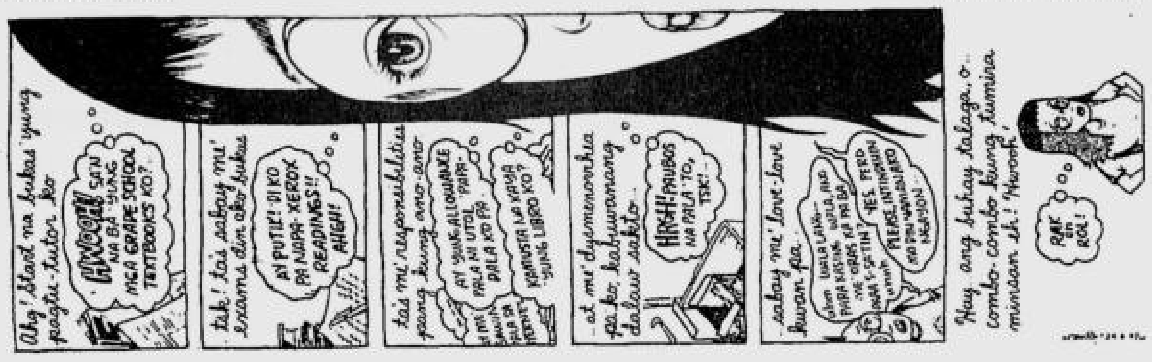
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LET'S STICK AROUND! THEY SAY THE SPANIARDS GIVE MILK & COOKIES AFTER MASS!
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

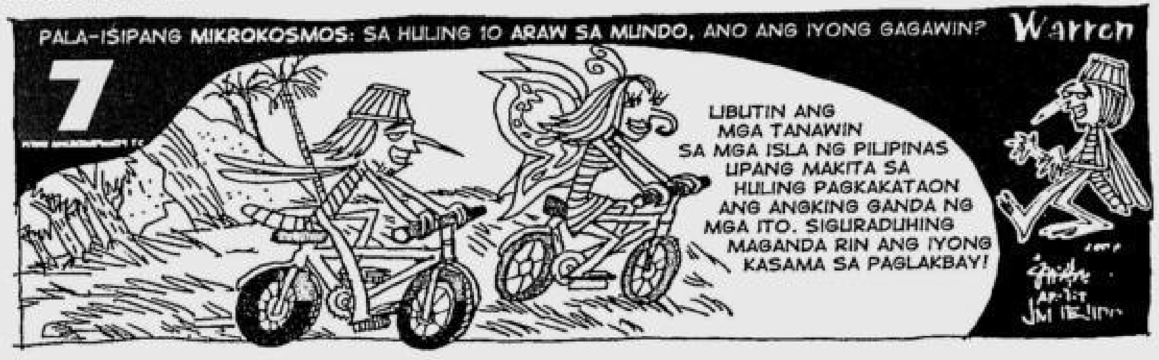
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Ahg! Start na bukas 'yung pagtu-tutor ko
HWOOP! SAN NA BA 'YUNG MGA GRADE SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS KO?
tsk! tas sabay mi' exams din ako bukas
AY PUTIK! DI KO PA NAPA-XEROX READINGS!! AHGH!
tas mi' responsibilities pang kung ano-ano
KAMUSTA NA KAYA 'YUNG LIBRO KO?
at mi' dyaminamahi pa ko, kabuwanang dalaw sakito
HAGH! PAUBOS NA PALA 'TO, TSK!
sabay mi' love-love kwan pa.
Hay ang buhay talaga, o-combo-combo kung lumina minsan eh! 'Hwoof!'
RAK EN ROL!

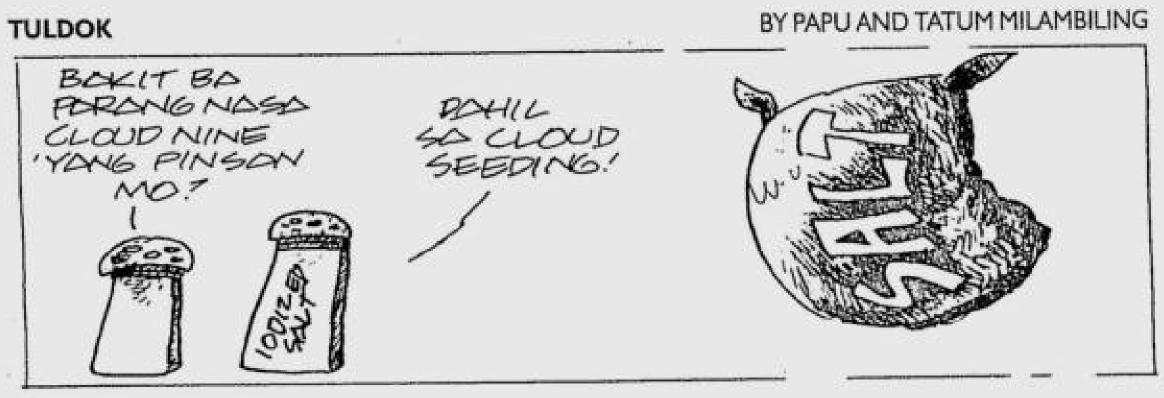
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PALA-IŚIPANG MIKROKOSMOS: SA HULING 10 ARAW SA MUNDO, ANO ANG IYONG GAGAWIN?
Warren
7
LIBUTIN ANG MGA TANAWIN SA MGA ISLA NG PILIPINAS UPANG MAKITA SA HULING PAGKAKATAON ANG ANGKING GANDA NG MGA ITO. SIGURADUHING MAGANDA RIN ANG IYONG KASAMA SA PAGLAKBAY!

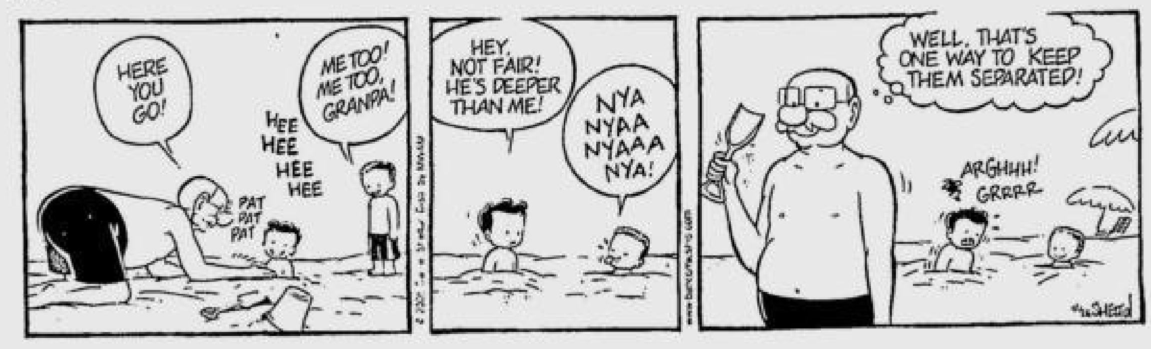
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA PARANG NASA CLOUD NINE 'YANG PINSAN MO?
DAHIL SA CLOUD SEEDING!
IODIZED SALT
SALT

BEN

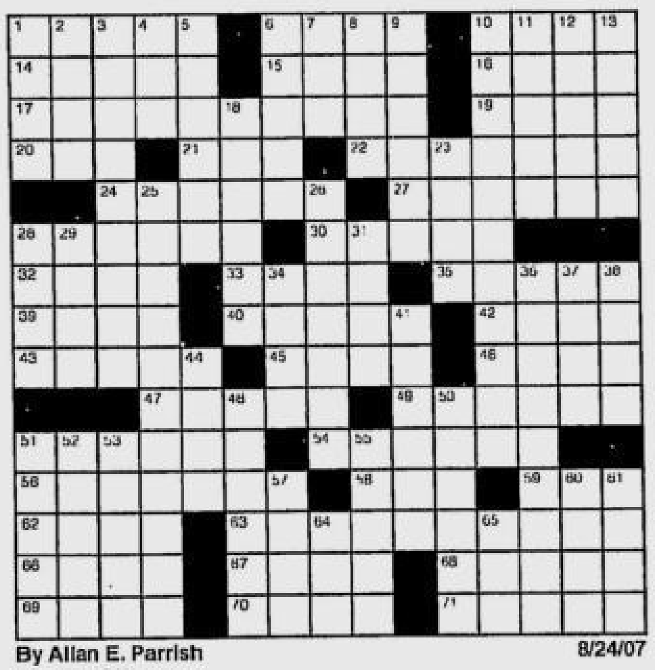
BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE YOU GO!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
ME TOO! ME TOO, GRANPA!
PAT PAT PAT
HEY, NOT FAIR! HE'S DEEPER THAN ME!
NYA NYAA NYAAA NYA!
WELL, THAT'S ONE WAY TO KEEP THEM SEPARATED!
ARGHHH! GRRRR

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Online health info site
6 Radio fig.
10 Subsequently
14 "Tiny ___"
15 Prego rival
16 Rock group, ___ Music
17 Way, for pay, across a river
19 So that's it!
20 Spanish aunt
21 Egyptian god of pleasure
22 Have doubts about
24 Followed
27 Mercedes-Benz model
28 Bush veep
30 Follow
32 Listen!
33 Singer Anita
35 Mr. T movie
39 Israeli airline
40 Vikinglike
42 Adventure hero Williams
43 Upscale watch
45 Get together
46 Actress Lena
47 Pitney's partner
49 Mad. Ave. trade publication
51 Build up
54 Claws
56 Parish clerics
58 Cartoonist Keane
59 Draw
62 Camaro model
63 Mincemeat or cherries
66 Spotted cubes
67 Corsica's neighbor
68 Missouri river
69 Fifth Avenue landmark
70 Former Virginia senator
71 Whimperer

DOWN
1 Power unit
2 "The Time Machine" race
3 Two-sided
4 Twice DLXXV
5 "Tammy" singer Reynolds
6 Upholstery fabric
7 Way cool!
8 Ova
9 London lines
10 Horse-racing hat trick
11 Book before Joel
12 CEOs, VPs etc.
13 Putin's turndowns
18 Trust
23 Desert Storm missile
25 Lower-leg supports
26 Most pricy
28 Best Actress of 1987
29 Heavenly headwear
31 Wall St. abbr.
34 Rotunda topper
36 Heavenly
37 Alain's girlfriend
38 Hit on the head
41 And others: Lat.
44 Mark for removal
48 Tearjerker
50 Modicum
51 Etcher's fluids
52 Roman senate
53 Kind of pot
55 Saunders' show, to fans
57 Farm building
60 "Bus Stop" dramatist
61 Hungarian river
64 Tidal reflux
65 Shaq's alma mater



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

8/24/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

F	A	D	S	■	L	B	S	■	R	E	S	E	D	A
O	B	I	E	■	A	A	H	■	A	C	T	S	O	N
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	■	T	H	I	S	O	N
E	L	I	D	E	■	R	E	S	T	O	R	E	R	S
■	■	N	E	O	N	■	D	E	L	I	■	■	■	■
Y	O	U	R	W	A	Y	■	R	E	N	E	W	E	D
A	P	T	■	S	N	I	P	■	■	G	R	A	P	E
R	E	I	D	■	U	P	T	H	E	■	A	S	E	A
D	R	O	I	D	■	■	S	O	D	A	■	T	E	L
S	A	N	D	E	R	S	■	B	I	G	G	E	S	T
■	■	■	■	C	A	T	S	■	T	R	A	P	■	■
I	D	E	A	L	I	S	T	S	■	E	R	A	T	O
D	O	G	W	A	S	■	O	N	C	E	A	P	U	P
A	L	G	O	R	E	■	L	A	O	■	G	E	N	T
S	T	Y	L	E	D	■	E	G	O	■	E	R	G	S

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8/24/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your fine mind allows you to present your ideas clearly and concisely. You're excellent with detail (at times fastidious!) Your willpower makes you persistent, which, in turn, can make you an expert in your field. Because of your idealism, you often champion reform in social or commercial areas. Your year ahead could hold a major change, perhaps as significant as around 1998.
Birthdate of: Alex Colville, artist; Rupert Grint, actor; Marlee Matlin, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to be realistic with co-workers and customers today. It's very easy to promise more than you can deliver. You might overestimate a situation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Sometimes, too much of a good thing is simply too much. Even though you want to have fun now, the responsibilities of your real world are not going to disappear. Learn to balance play and work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your enthusiasm from yesterday could get you in hot water today, especially at home or within your family dynamic. Make sure you know what you're doing. Be realistic with family members.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's easy to be overly optimistic today. Optimism is a good thing, but we do live in the real world. Be cautious when shopping or making promises to others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Many of you are the last of the big-time spenders. Think twice before you part with your money today, because you're feeling a bit reckless. (There's no such thing as a free lunch.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You believe strongly in yourself today. You're excited about your own ideas and plans. Just make sure they are doable in the real world. (Are you wearing rose-colored glasses?)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's easy to put the needs of others before your own today. However, be realistic. It's important to maintain a healthy self-interest as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A friend or a member of a group might try to talk you into something today. If you think it's more than you can handle, listen to that small voice inside you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be cautious about agreeing to deadlines or making projections with bosses, parents and VIPs today. It's easy to overestimate things today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Plans related to travel, education, medicine and the law look promising! Double-check everything to make sure you haven't overlooked important details.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't give away the farm today. You might think something looks better than it really is. If you're dealing with shared property, proceed very carefully.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In your desire to please partners and friends, you might promise something you'll later regret. Share your enthusiasm with others, but be careful about going overboard with something. (It's easy to do today.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				1		2		
	5			4		6	9	
3	8							
			6		3			
2	7						3	8
			8		1			
							5	7
	4	7		8			2	
		1		9				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/24

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	7	5	6	2	1	3	8
8	2	3	1	9	4	6	7	5
1	5	6	7	3	8	4	9	2
7	3	1	9	2	6	8	5	4
2	6	4	8	7	5	9	1	3
5	8	9	4	1	3	2	6	7
3	9	2	6	4	7	5	8	1
6	7	8	2	5	1	3	4	9
4	1	5	3	8	9	7	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/23

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer ent name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

NEILE and Steve in one of the hundreds of snapshots taken when they were "both young and beautiful."

Steve McQueen's Manila-born wife on her life and biopic

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—THE ANnouncement in our column on Saturday, that the book of Manila-born **Neile Adams** (also known as Neile McQueen Toffel) about her life with the late **Steve McQueen** ("My Husband, My Friend") had been optioned to be made into a movie, elicited feedback from a reader.

Hubert, who is related to the Salvadors and has done some research on the family tree, shared: "In your column you wrote, '... also known as Neile Adams, the entertainer and author, who is said to be related to Philippine show biz's Salvador clan ...' Yes, Neile Toffel is indeed a part of the Salvador clan. Her mother, **Miami** is the sister of the late **Lou Salvador Sr.** Thus, Ms. Toffel is the aunt of **Maja Salvador** and cousin of **Phillip Salvador** and the late **Leroy Salvador**."

We got to interview Neile via e-mail. The singer-actress-author discussed her life with Steve, the movie project and a sentimental journey back to Manila in the 1960s when, after many years, she once again saw the folks who had raised her.

Neile was incarcerated with her mother in the Japanese prison camp at the University of Santo Tomas during World War II. At age 13, she studied in Hong Kong. She returned briefly to the Philippines and then left to live in the US at 14. She went on to become a Broadway performer and Hollywood actress who married **Steve McQueen**, and then **Alvin Toffel**.

She chronicled her life with Steve—whose iconic status continues to grow since his death at 50—in "My Husband, My Friend," which is available on www.authorhouse.com.

The Ferrari you gave Steve was recently sold for $2.31 million. What do you remember about the day you gave it to Steve?

I bought the car for $14,000 in 1963 for his 33rd birthday. It was an exciting moment for him and for me. For a car freak like him, it was the penultimate car as far as prestige and engineering were concerned. He went driving down the coast highway ... and promptly rear-ended a car as he turned to look at a pretty girl in a bikini.

What are your thoughts about Steve being such a cool icon until today?

Steve was always a cool icon. Nobody on the scene thought, talked or dressed like he did. He wrote his own script; nobody could touch him as far as originality was concerned. That he seems to be more popular nowadays is a tribute to his having marched to his own drummer. It's well-deserved.

What items of Steve's in your personal collection do you cherish the most?

The antique jewelry that he was fond of giving me. And hundreds of photos of us when we were young and beautiful!

You envision the movie adaptation of your book as a "true life love story set against a glittering Hollywood backdrop." Can you elaborate?

The thrust of our story is the love we had for each other, which went awry when outside forces destroyed the marriage, but never that love.

What biopics have you admired? Which ones would

STEVE/ E2

The indie roundtable talks

Foreign investors favor RP films

ARLEEN CUEVAS
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Gerry Plaza
INQUIRER.net

PRODUCERS OF INDEPENDENT FILMS IN the Philippines need no longer fret about the lack of funds to complete their work.

Foreign investors who regularly fund such initiatives take Filipino independent films seriously, shelling out grants to provide local filmmakers the needed technical and creative resources, according to an indie producer.

Plus factor

"When they see that a film is from the Philippines, it's a plus factor," said Arleen Cuevas, who was among the speakers during the indie roundtable talks held recently at the INQUIRER offices.

Cuevas has produced award-winning films, among them, Raya Martin's "A Short Film About the Indio Nacional" and "Autohystoria" and Adolf Alix's "Kadin" and "Tambolista."

She encourages established independent filmmakers, as well as budding directors and producers, to take advantage of the country's stellar image in the worldwide indie film circuit to acquire foreign funding.

Local grants

On the other hand, she reminded them of local grants, which have increased of late.

Cuevas enumerated: "There are grants from Cinemalaya, [cable movie channel] Cinema One, NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts), FDCP (Film Development Council of the Philippines)."

The funds usually come in tranches, she said. As such, she noted one difference between local and foreign funding: "[*Dito*] *kailangan ka talagang mag-abono* (you may have to spend your own money at first)."

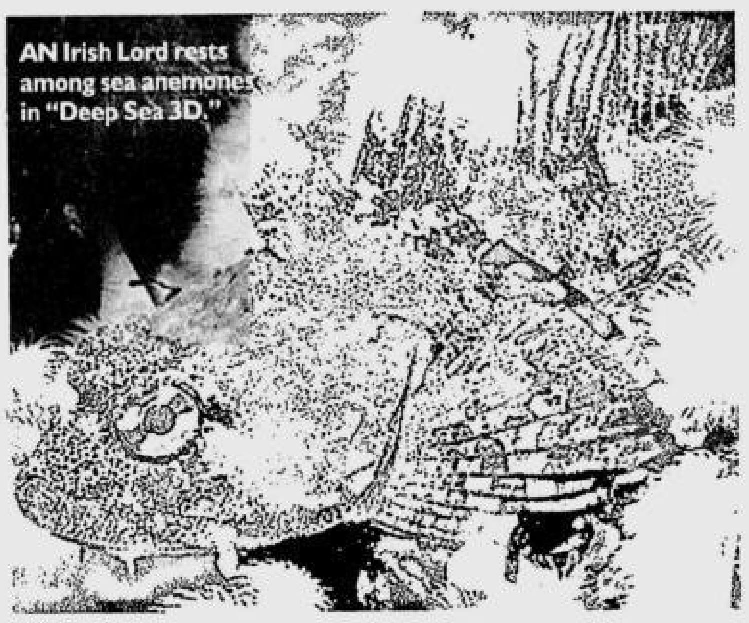
Overseas investors usually release the money in full, Cuevas said. "You just give back the finished product). [But] they always ask what your plans are for the film: Will there be a theatrical release?"

If box office success is rarely a guaranteed result, what are the rewards of this endeavor?

"Independent filmmaking thrives because it is done out of love," Cuevas explained. "If your film gets awards and is shown here and abroad, I guess [for indie filmmakers] that's better than money."

Other participants in the roundtable discussions at the INQUIRER were award-winning directors Jim Libiran, Auraeus Solito and Gene Cajayon, and actors Cherry Pie Picache, Gina Pareño and Irma Adlawan.

'Sea' life, a whole new view



AN Irish Lord rests among sea anemones in "Deep Sea 3D."

"DEEP SEA 3D," AN UNDERwater film narrated by Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, debuts at the San Miguel Coca-Cola IMAX Theatre, SM Mall of Asia on Aug. 29.

The 3-D digital exploration of the ocean's depths and creatures is expected to transport audiences below the ocean surface, with dangerous and colorful creatures like the Wolf Eel and the Giant Pacific Octopus.

"When I put on the IMAX 3D glasses to watch 'Deep Sea 3D,' it was like putting on my dive mask," says director Howard Hall, a renowned underwater cinematographer. "It provides such an experience that you're able to get up close to the creatures much like I did shooting the film, but without getting wet."

"Even with a large number of people who do scuba dive, lots of them have never met these characters or seen how they interact with other animals," comments producer Toni Myers.

The movie reunites the dynamic filmmaking team that produced "Into the Deep 3D."

For details, call 556-0547.

Susan Fernandez and friends in PGH fundraiser at Tropezz

SHOW TIME

THE GREATEST HITS OF THE 1960s AND '70s come alive in "Diliman Timewarp"—a fundraising show on Aug. 29, 9 p.m. at Tropezz Restaurant & Bar, 2nd floor Greenbelt 3, Makati. The gig is for the benefit of the Philippine General Hospital's Women's Desk and features Lester Demetillo, Susan Fernandez, Mario Andres, Yoly Villanueva-Ong, Lory Paredes Tangonan, Marl Villapando, former members of the Ambivalent Crowd, the former Greenhouse Singers and the Bar Stool Singers, all of whom were once fixtures of the live music scene in and around UP Diliman. Call 531-5684 or 0917-8117756.

KJWAN

New Pinoy band

New Pinoy band Zelle launches its debut album, "Search for Warmth" (Sony BMG) with a concert at 8 p.m. at the Central Plaza of Eastwood Libis, Quezon City.

The band is composed of Jeazell Grutas (vocals), Archie Salvador (guitar), Jasper Grutas (drums), Anthony Ramirez (violin) and Enan Cruz (bass).

Bukas Palad at 20

Bukas Palad Music Ministry celebrates its 20th anniversary with a new album, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," which will be launched with a live performance tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the Church of the Gesu, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The album features guest artists Gary Granada and Coke Bolipata, and a composition by Noel Cabangon.

New Minstrels live

A mixed lineup of the New Minstrels performs tomorrow at Ratsky's Tomas Morato, Quezon City and on Aug. 31 at the Fiesta Casino, Rizal province. Call 373-9882.

Music fest

The country's hottest bands and solo pop artists perform live at the 3rd Backdoor Ventures Arts & Music Festival & Trade Fair to be held today until Aug. 26 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

The event features The Dawn, Pinikpikan, Kjwan, Kapatid, Stonefree, Kadangyan, Romancing Venus, Sino Sikat?, Agaw Agimat, Nityalila, Greyhoundz, Coffeebreak Island, Makatha, Dice & K9, Reklamo, Indio I, The Late Isabel, Gloc 9, Noel Cabangon, Sofia, Kooky Tuason, Miko Pepito, Julianne, Pepe Smith and many others.

Log on to www.backdoorvent.multiply.com

OGIE ALCASID

Ogie's 40th b'day gig

Ogie Alcasid performs in "Faces of My Life" tonight and tomorrow at the Music Museum.

Conceived as an intimate gig in celebration of his 40th birthday, the concert also features Regine Velasquez as special guest.

For tickets, call 8919999 and 7216726.

New York DJ

New York DJ Nat King Soul, who has performed with the likes of De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, The Pharcyde, The Roots and L.L. Cool J, spins the latest underground R&B, old school hip hop, '90s house, Brazilian funk and dancehall beats at midnight tomorrow at the Vapor Room of Alchemy, Silver City Mall, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig.

Call 706-1305 or 0917-5110401.

Classical meets pop

Singer George Sison-Tagle bridges classical and pop in "Salute to George: First Major Concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra," a dinner-concert on Sept. 13 at the Crowne Plaza Grand Ballroom, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

A Best New Artist nominee in the 2004 Aliw Awards, Tagle has been singing professionally since 1998. He was a vocalist in several show bands and took up classical music.at the Ryan Cayabyab Music Studio.

Call 911-5615 or 438-7200.

Tonight

Mitch Valdes, 9 p.m. at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati

Bamboo in Davao. Call 721-5944, 721-7874 or visit the nearest Penshoppe boutique for details.

Tomorrow

Freestyle at Green Coral Resort, Batangas

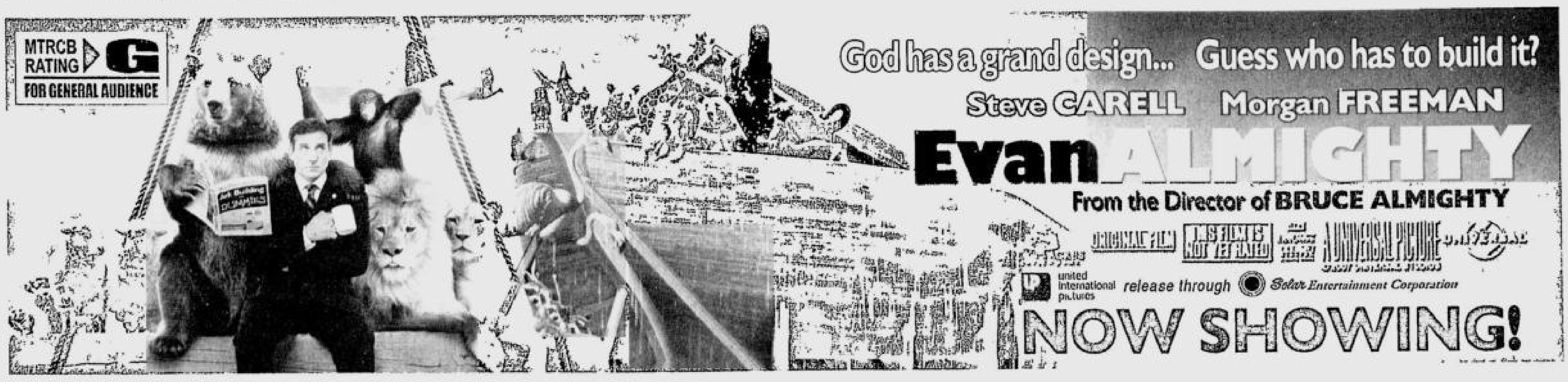
Imago, 5 p.m. at Robinson's Metro East

The Hitmakers, 9 p.m. at Boulvar Sports & Music Bar, Manila Pavilion Hotel

Call 526-1212 extension 2317.

Aug. 26

Sponge Cola, 5 p.m. at SM Pampanga


MTRCB RATING G
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
God has a grand design... Guess who has to build it?
Steve CARELL Morgan FREEMAN
Evan ALMIGHTY
From the Director of BRUCE ALMIGHTY
united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
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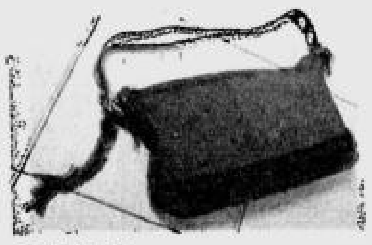
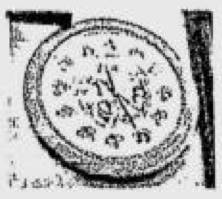
Editor Emmie G. Velarde

HER closet is crammed, not with clothes, but with caps, bags and shoes.

OUT OF THE CLOSET



SCARLET Coach bag



DISNEY Princesses wall clock

Singing champ Sheryn Regis has a room full of souvenirs from around the world

'I enjoy being a girl'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

GLOBE-TROTTING SINGING CHAMP Sheryn Regis goes on shopping sprees whenever she tours, here or abroad.

Apart from presents for her four-year-old daughter Sweety, Sheryn always brings home bags of goodies.

(She has just arrived from Calgary, Canada, where she headlined two shows for the Philippine Tourism Authority. She's a regular on the ABS-CBN variety show "ASAP" and has recorded "The Modern Jukebox Collection" CD for Star Records.)

DOLLS

She owns exotic pieces from Russia and Thailand, but the most precious are her Barbies. Fellow champ Christian Bautista gave her an "American Idol" Barbie; "Star in a Million" batch mate Erik Santos, a California Barbie.

From her most recent US trip, Sheryn acquired seven new dolls, one of them a Barbie Christmas 2007 edition.

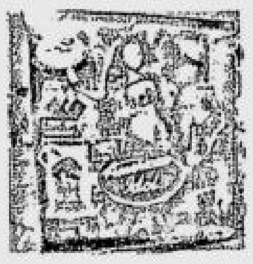
GADGETS

A Chinese fan gifted her with a top-of-the-line cell phone. Sheryn recalls: "My brand-new cell phone had been stolen; so my fan replaced it with the same model. After doing a show in Dubai, a resident gave me another cell phone."

At home, she would usually be busy with the Nintendo or her Sony PlayStation 2. When she's on the road, she lugs along a Sony PlayStation Portable, Panasonic Discman and iPod Nano. She keeps in touch with family and friends through her Toshiba M115 laptop.

ECLAT D'ARPEGE by Lanvin is her current favorite scent.

KILLER stilettos are okay with her.



BARBIES, Barbies everywhere.

CLOTHES

Practical Girl doesn't hoard gowns and other bulky clothes. "I live in a condo," she explains. "I don't have space for my show clothes. Onstage I have to wear gowns and dresses, but when I'm not working, I prefer tees and jeans."

SHOES

She's not afraid to wear killer stilettos onstage since, barefoot, she stands only 4'11."

Her shoe collection can be described as divaesque and ultra feminine, mostly glittery, strappy stilettos, in gold and jewel colors.

SCENTS

A current fave is Eclat d'Arpege by Lanvin. She also likes Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue.

BAGS

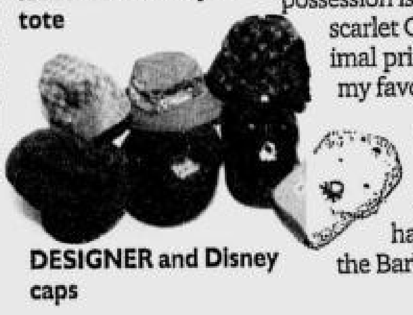
She's a certified bag lady, with over two dozen totes in her cabinet. Her most prized possession is a white ruffled JLo. She also has a scarlet Coach, plus other bags in sultry animal prints and all shades of pink. "Pink is my favorite color," she says. "It's so girly."

CAPS

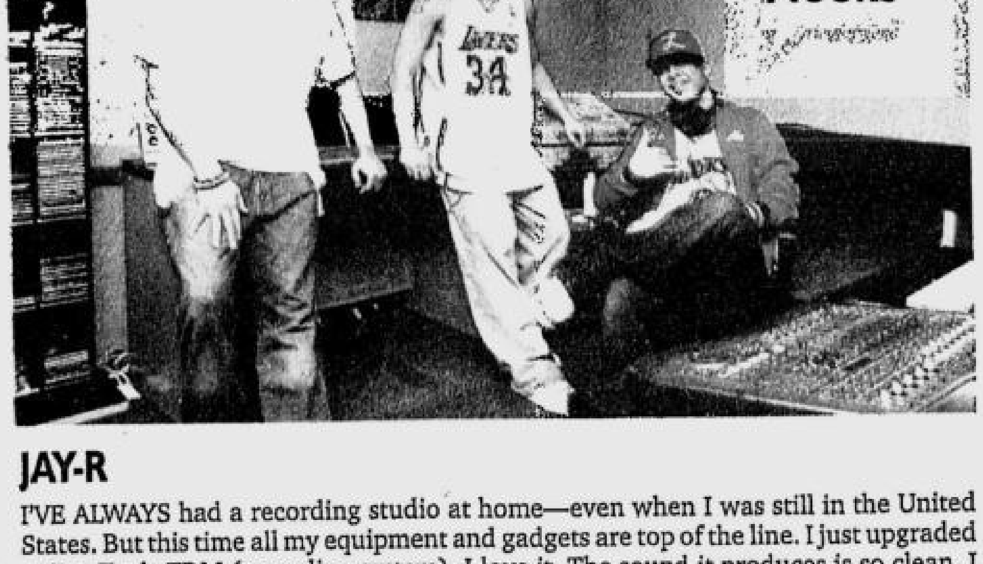
She owns Benetton baseball caps and a Louis Vuitton floppy hat. Of course, she also has hats from the Barbie and Disney Princess lines.

HER perfume collection.

RUFFLED white JLo tote



DESIGNER and Disney caps



FAVORITE NOOKS

JAY-R

I'VE ALWAYS had a recording studio at home—even when I was still in the United States. But this time all my equipment and gadgets are top of the line. I just upgraded to Pro Tools TDM (recording system). I love it. The sound it produces is so clean. I love hanging out here because it's like an office with high-tech toys. I have everything I need here. My housemates Kris Lawrence (right) and Jimmy Muna (left) and I make up Smash Brothers Productions. Our work revolves around music. Since I work closely with my housemates (Jimmy composes songs and Kris has guested in JayR's album), having a home studio is very convenient.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

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Watch how Chazz and Jimmy pull it off and win the coveted championship exclusively at your favorite SM Cinemas nationwide.

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

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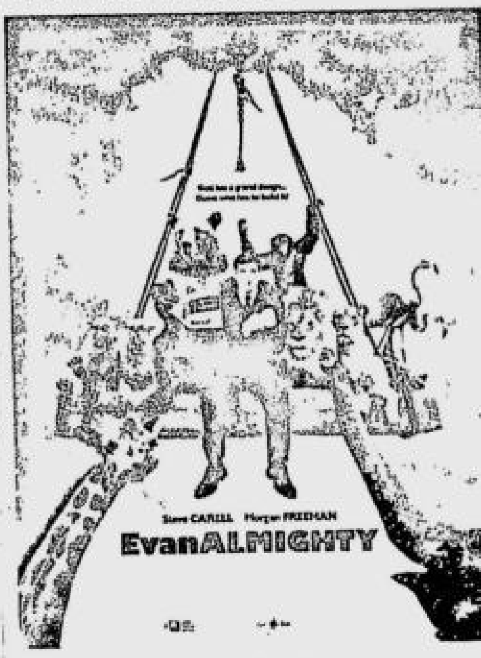

From the directors of "Bruce Almighty" comes another story of unexpected apparation.

Former newscaster Evan Baxter (Steve Carell) who is now elected Congressman, leaves Buffalo behind and shepherds his family to suburban Northern Virginia. There, his life turns upside down when God (Morgan Freeman) appears and commands him to build an ark because flood is coming. Evan shuns it at first, but eventually, his faith leads people into a remarkable realization.

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How champs

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A LOVE STORY PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	SURF'S UP G 1:00,3:00,5:00, 7:00,9:00	HAIRSPRAY PG13 12:30,3;00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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3	HAIRSPRAY 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 G
4	EVAN ALMIGHTY 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13

OPENS AUGUST 29
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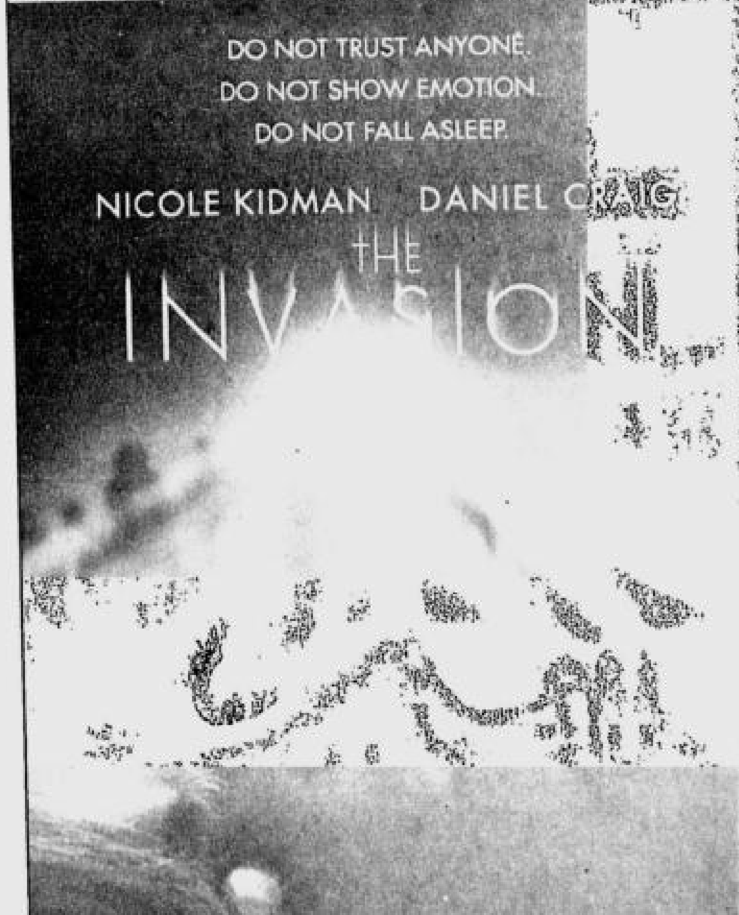
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kept “Surf’s Up” real

DID YOU KNOW...

KELLY
SLATER

THERE’S A REASON those wave-riding penguins look so real in the animated comedy “Surf’s Up.” During the film’s production, champion surfer Kelly Slater visited Sony Pictures Imageworks to critique action scenes.

Visual effects supervisor Rob Bredow says the time with Slater was invaluable. “It was pretty informative to sit next to him and let him draw [on the screen, with a sylus] to show us exactly which parts we still had to work on.”

The champ also appears in the movie, in penguin form. Artists captured his personality and mannerisms, but Slater provided his own voice for authenticity.

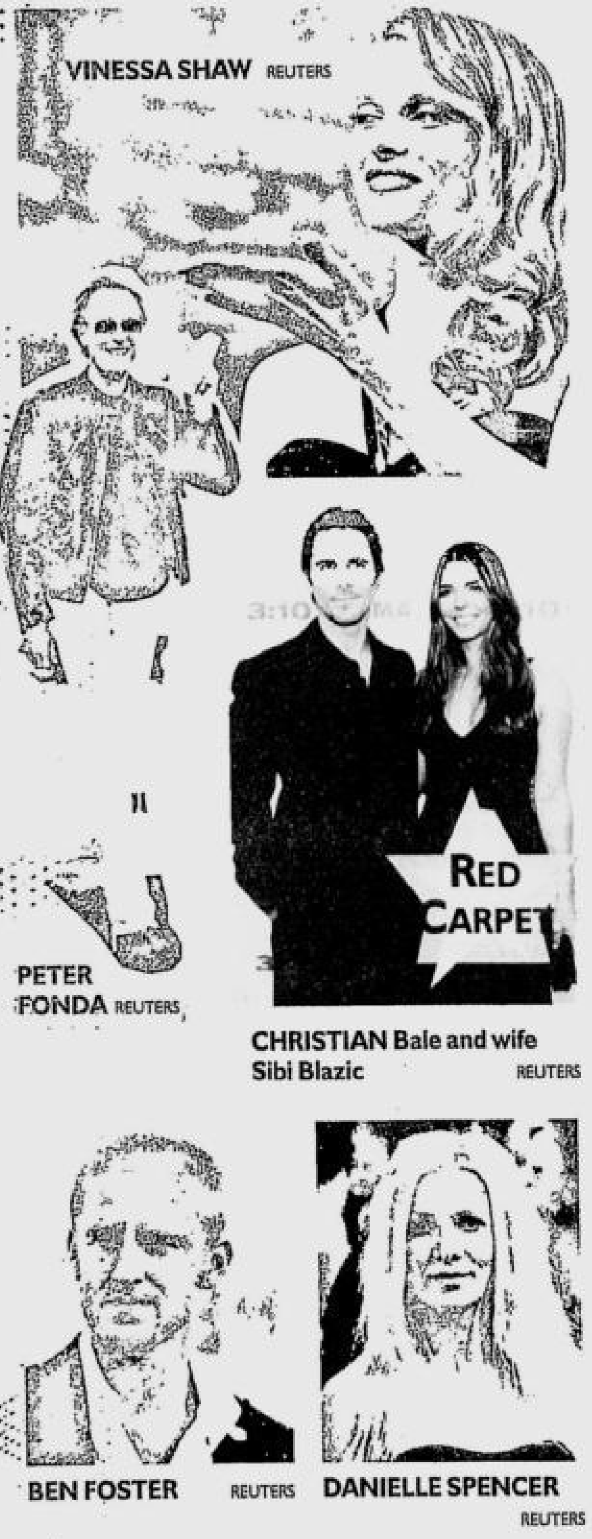
An eight-time world champ, Slater is considered the most successful pro surfer in the history of the sport. In May 2005, at the Billabong Tahiti Pro contest at Teahupoo, Slater became the first surfer ever to score two perfect rides.

Apart from working with Slater, the “Surf’s Up” team watched classic surf movies ("Endless Summer," “Step Into Liquid,” “Second Thoughts”) and scrutinized videos of other champion surfers.

To make sure each wave had a unique identity, the animators studied works by nature photographer Frans Lanting. Plus, they took surfing lessons and shot reference video on an outing to Cortez Bank, home to huge waves that crash over a chain of underwater mountains 100 miles off the Southern California coast.

CAST member Russell Crowe covers the ears of wife Danielle Spencer as he is being interviewed at the “3:10 to Yuma” premiere at the Mann National Theatre in Westwood, California. REUTERS

‘3:10 to Yuma’ preem in Westwood, CA



VINESSA SHAW REUTERS

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CHRISTIAN Bale and wife Sibi Blazic REUTERS

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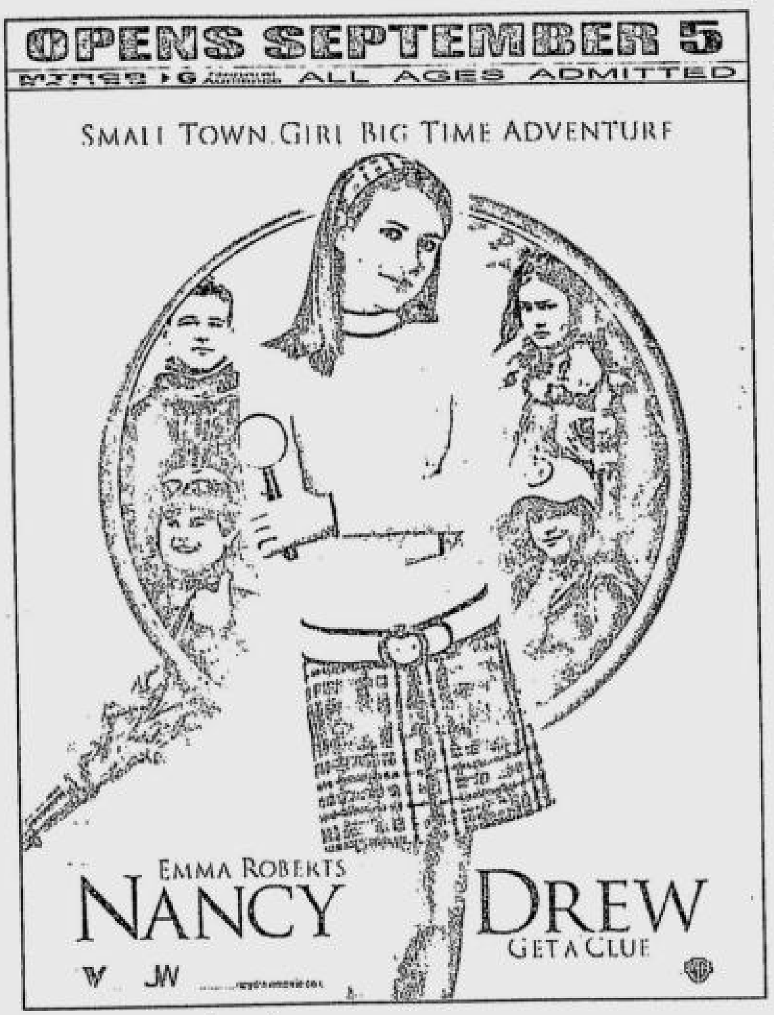
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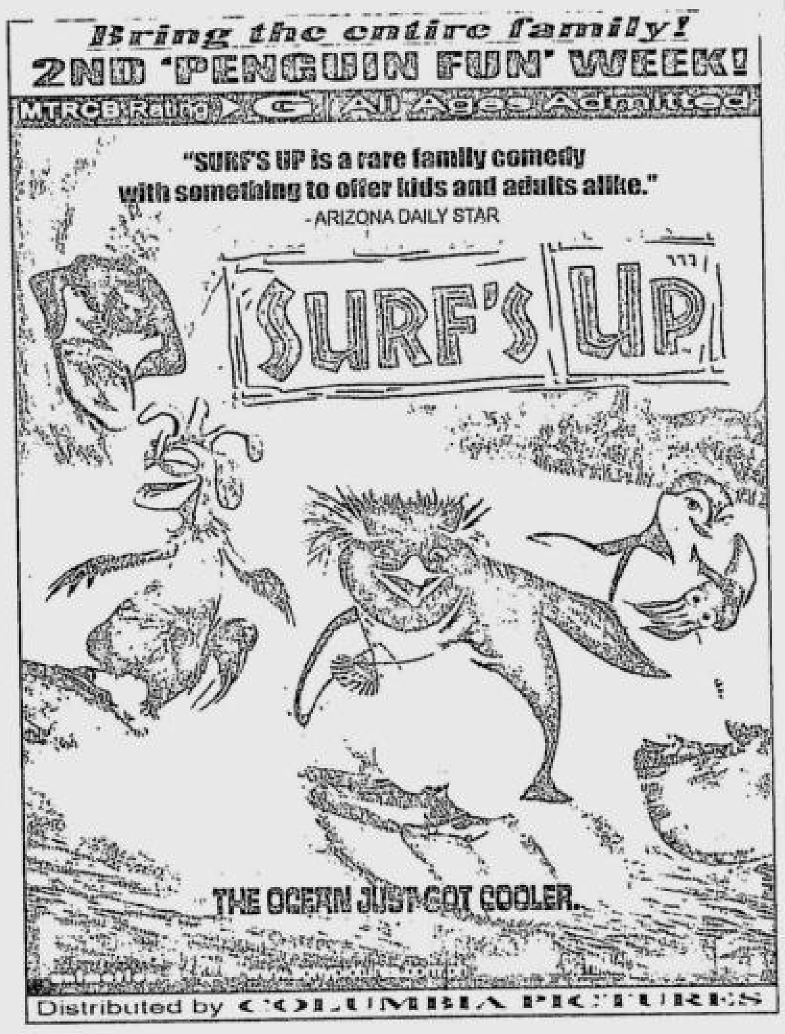
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- ARIZONA DAILY STAR
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RUSH HOUR 3

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY • THX
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

2 A LOVE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 RUSH HOUR 3
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

4 HAIRSPRAY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 RISE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 indieSine: INDIO NACIONAL
1:45 3:50 5:55 8:00

9 SURF'S UP
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

10 SIGNOS
20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

Don't Look Back

This horrifying and mysterious story is about a young man named Darma (Pierre Andre) who is trying to figure out the cause of his fiance named Rose's (Intan Ladyana) death. Rose was found dead without any reason. Darma together with Rose's twin sister named Sari (also played by Intan Ladyana) tried to find the mystery behind Rose's death.

They began their investigation by going to Rose's house where Darma found a bottle which he brought home. Darma and Sari suspected something weird happened behind Rose's death. The suspicion became stronger as they found some evidences including Rose's digital camera.

Since then Darma lived a disturbing life. A diverse of weird and horrifying events haunted him. At Kampung, as Darma was about to find the cause of Rose's death, he and Sari were shocked by one thing that was really hard to accept. What is that thing and could Darma afford to find a way out of this thing that haunts him everyday? Everything will be answered by watching this film. To all of you there, whatever happen, don't you dare LOOK BACK because when dead men meet life anything can happen!

showing at all
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
this August 29

ERMITA

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 SURF'S UP 12:00 2:00 4:00
RISE 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HAIRSPRAY
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00

4 SIGNOS
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00

5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 RUSH HOUR 3
2:15 [illegible] 4:15 [illegible] [illegible] 10:00

METRO EAST

1 HAIRSPRAY
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 A LOVE STORY
10:35 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

4 SURF'S UP
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

5 RISE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

7 RUSH HOUR 3
[illegible] 30 1:5[illegible] 4:20 6:45 9:10

8 SIGNOS
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 [illegible]

NOVALICHES

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SIGNOS
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RISE

PIONEER

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12:10 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30

2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

3 A LOVE STORY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

4 HAIRSPRAY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

STA. ROSA (049) 857 0907

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

1 OSS 117
2 A LOVE STORY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 THREE

DASMARINAS

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

IMUS

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 A LOVE STORY

ANGELES

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STROY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED

STARMILLS

1 THREE
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 SURF'S UP
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 SURF'S UP
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

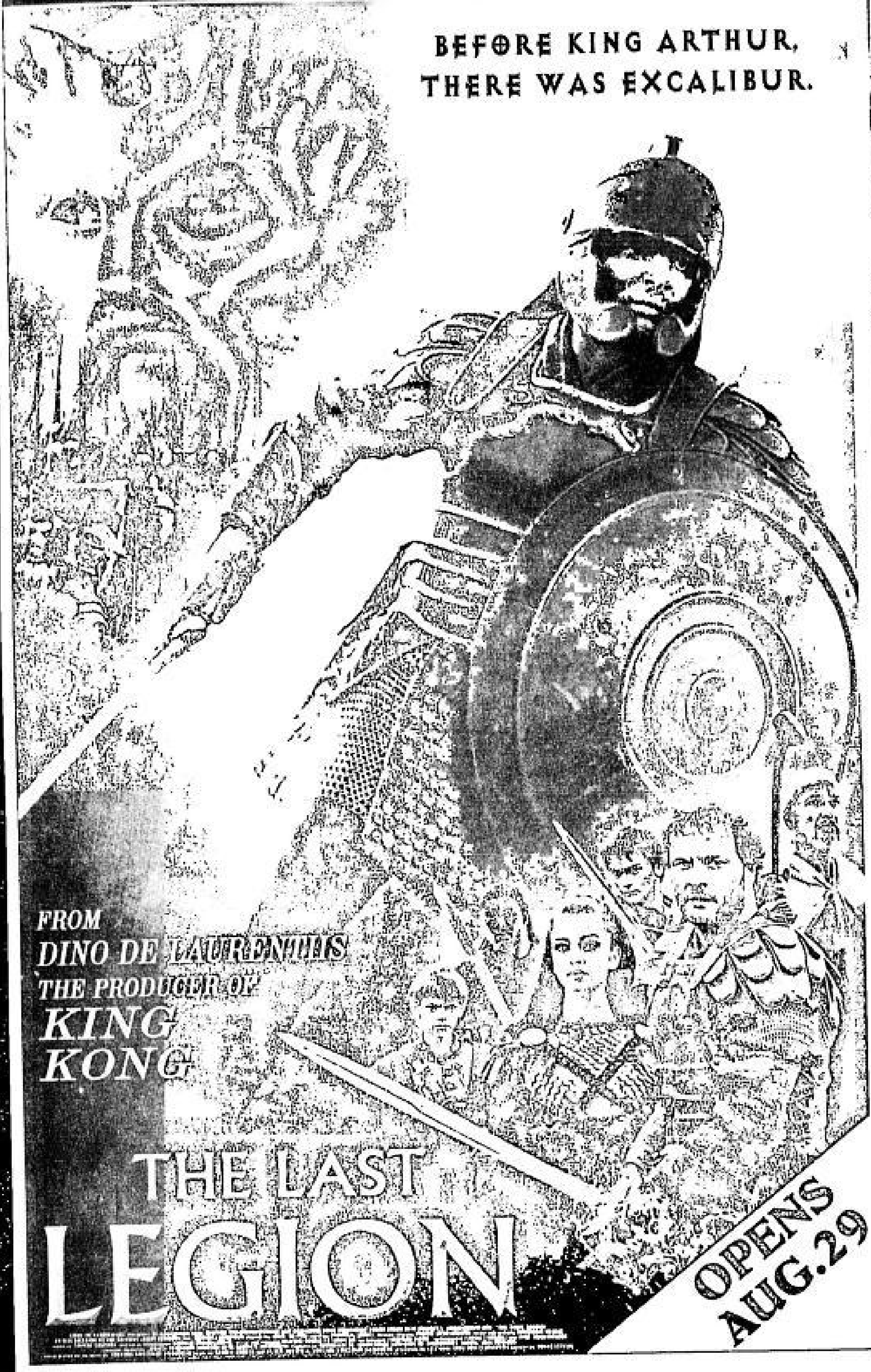
1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 BLIND DATING
6 RISE

ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 26 (11:00AM) – 'SURF'S UP' Mall Show
'Dance Number
'Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
'Surfing Clinic by Stonemoney
'Games and Raffle
Robinsons Bacolod Mall Activity Area

WITNESS THE SPECTACULAR FINAL BATTLE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE.

IN THE TRADITION OF '300' COMES ANOTHER HISTORICAL EPIC THAT DEPICTS THE COURAGE OF A FEW LEGIONNAIRES WHO FOUGHT AGAINST AN ARMY 50 TIMES BIGGER AND WON.



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Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza Farmers Market

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Gateway Cineplex*10
WALL TO WALL SCREEN
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

EVAN ALMIGHTY 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50	WAITRESS 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50	SURFS UP 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
SIGNOS 11:35 / 2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 10:00	HAIRSPRAY 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30	RUSH HOUR 3 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	BOURNE ULTIMATUM 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	A LOVE STORY 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00	EVAN ALMIGHTY 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

CINEMANILA EXTENDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!
AUGUST 24 · CINEMA 6 · SCREENING SCHEDULE

12:00	Syndromes & A Century	7:30	Luxury Car
2:30	Goodbye Bafana	9:30	Persepolis
5:00	Paris Je T'aime		

Ali MALL 5

1	HAIRSPRAY 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45	2	EVAN ALMIGHTY 1:05 / 3:25 / 5:45 / 8:05	3	BOURNE ULTIMATUM 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35
4	SIGNOS 12:15 R3 / 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15	5	A LOVE STORY 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

WWE summerslam
LIVE! VIA SATTELITE
AUGUST 27 MONDAY / 9AM

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
JOHN MORRISON VS CM PUNK
JOHN CENA VS RANDY ORTON
THE GREAT KHALI VS BATISTA
REY MYSTERIO VS CHAVO GUERRERO
TICKET PRICE: P300

For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net

KATE IN ENGLAND ...
This is "Myth (Sphinx)," a three-meter high painted bronze statue of British super model Kate Moss by artist Marc Quinn installed in Chatsworth, Derbyshire, England. The Statue is a part of the "Beyond Limits" exhibition that will be auctioned privately by Sothebys starting Sept. 8. AFP

SHANG CINEPLEX

① HAIRSPRAY
MTRCB GP
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

② BOURNE ULTIMATUM
MTRCB PG-13
1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40

③ A LOVE STORY
MTRCB. PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

④ EVAN ALMIGHTY
MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE SURF'S UP (GP) 1.00, 3.00, 5.00 / RUSH HOUR 3 (PG-13) 7:00, 9.15

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
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Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 SURFS UP 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 2 RUSH HOUR 3 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 HAIRSPRAY 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 GP
CINEMA 4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 PG-13
CINEMA 5 EVAN ALMIGHTY 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
	September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Aug. 24, 31, Sept 7, 21, 28 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Aug. 30, Sept 5,12,19,26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED
NOW SHOWING
THE HAPPIEST MOVIE ON EARTH...
MANILA AUDIENCES ARE SCREAMING, DANCING AND FEELING GOOD
$108,679,524
TOTAL BOX-OFFICE GROSS AS OF 08/13/2007
THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL

John Travolta
Michelle Pfeiffer
Amanda Bynes
Zac Efron
James Marsden
and Queen Latifah
HAIRSPRAY
Brittany Snow
Christopher Walken
Elijah Kelley
Allison Janney
introducing Nikki Blonsky

...'ROCKY' IN SERBIA
A statue of Sylvester Stallone's famous film character, boxer Rocky Balboa, has been erected in Zitiste, a tiny Serbian town some 55 kilometers north of Belgrade, to uplift its image after years of hard times.
The three-meter-high bronze statue of Stallone as Rocky, made by a Croatian sculptor, was unveiled last weekend in the center of the village.
A village resident thought up the idea last February, to pay tribute to his favorite movie hero after seeing the sixth and last "Rocky" movie. "I felt as if Rocky has come from here; he had to fight to win his place in society," said Bojan Marceta. AFP

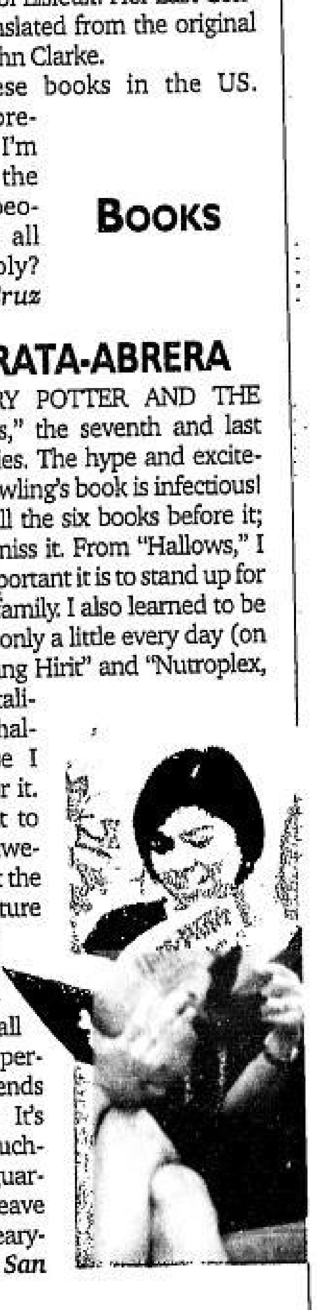
BOOKS

NOVA VILLA

I HAVE TWO FAVORITE BOOKS—"THE Poem of the Man-God" by Maria Valtorta and "St. Therese of Lisieux: Her Last Conversation" as translated from the original manuscript by John Clarke.

I bought these books in the US. These are very precious to me. I'm fascinated by the lives of holy people. Don't we all strive to be holy? *Marinel R. Cruz*

SUZI ENTRATA-ABRERA



I LOVE "HARRY POTTER AND THE Deathly Hallows," the seventh and last novel in the series. The hype and excitement for J.K. Rowling's book is infectious! Plus, I've read all the six books before it; I'd be crazy to miss it. From "Hallows," I learned how important it is to stand up for our values and family. I also learned to be patient—I read only a little every day (on the sets of "Unang Hirit" and "Nutroplex, Iba na ang Matalino Brain Challenge") because I wanted to savor it. I recommend it to everybody. It's awe-inspiring, but at the same time mature and brave. Great twist in the end! Rowling had it all mapped out perfectly. Loose ends were tied up. It's filled with touching moments guaranteed to leave fans a bit teary-eyed. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*